

# MASSACHUSETTS FISHING & HUNTING



2022



OFFICIAL FRESHWATER FISHING,  
HUNTING, AND TRAPPING LAWS

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# MAXIMUM ACCURACY



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### X-BOLT® MAX LONG RANGE HUNTER RIFLE

Black/gray textured stock finish, stainless steel, fluted heavy sporter barrel for long-range accuracy. (scope, rings, rail not included)



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**BE SAFE, BE SEEN****GET YOUR ORANGE ON**

Photo © Troy Gipps

**ALL outdoor users** who are in the field during hunting seasons are encouraged to wear blaze orange to increase their visibility. Hunters see page 18 for blaze orange requirements. Learn more at [mass.gov/dfw/blaze-orange](https://mass.gov/dfw/blaze-orange) 🧡

**NEW FOR 2022**

**License/Stamp/Permit Fee Increases:** For the first time since 1996, the fees for hunting, freshwater fishing, trapping licenses, and associated stamps and permits have increased. The new fees address the increased costs of our current conservation, recreation, and education work including the scientific management of fish and wildlife and their habitats, trout and pheasant stocking, and Hunter and Angler Education programs. Fee increases will be phased in annually beginning this year and continuing until 2026. Further details can be found online at [mass.gov/mass-wildlife-funding](https://mass.gov/mass-wildlife-funding) (see page 8 for 2022 license fees).

**New Pheasant/Quail Permit:** A permit is required for any person 15 years or older who hunts, takes, or possesses pheasants or bobwhite quail. Hunters hunting or possessing pheasant or bobwhite quail harvested on a licensed commercial shooting preserve do not need a permit (see page 6).

**Seasonal Bag Limits on Pheasant/Quail Lifted:** Seasonal bag limits for pheasant and quail have been eliminated. Daily and possession bag limits have not changed (see page 34).

**Hen Pheasant Hunting Allowed Statewide:** Hen pheasants may now be hunted statewide and are counted as part of the two-bird daily bag limit for all pheasant hunters.

**Martin Burns WMA Controlled Hunts Eliminated;** Pheasant hunters at Martin Burns WMA in Newbury are no longer required to register or "check in" on Saturdays or Veterans Day during the pheasant hunting season. For further information, contact the Northeast District office at (978) 772-2145.

**Have a question?**

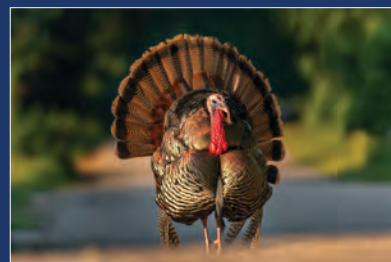
[mass.wildlife@mass.gov](mailto:mass.wildlife@mass.gov)  
(508) 389-6300

**Connect with MassWildlife!****On the Cover**

A tom turkey in full strut.  
Photo © Dean Cerrati

**Cover Inset**

Two boys enjoying a day of trout fishing.  
Photo © Troy Gipps





MASSWILDLIFE

**COMMONWEALTH OF  
MASSACHUSETTS**

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Karyn Polito, Lieutenant Governor

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**  
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Ronald S. Amidon, Commissioner

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**GENERAL DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE**

## THE FUTURE OF CONSERVATION

When I was growing up in central Massachusetts, fishing, hunting, trapping, and shooting were a way of life. Outdoor skills were passed from generation to generation, and plenty of neighbors were willing to share their knowledge if you didn't have a mentor in your family. In my case, it was my grandfather who got me started fishing and hunting and bought me my first gun.

There were three dairy farms right down the road from where I lived, and the farmers used to let us milk the cows, fish the cow ponds, and hunt the farms. The more time I spent on the water and in the woods, the greater my love and appreciation grew for nature, open spaces, and wildlife conservation. So much so, I made it my lifelong career. And I am still an active hunter, angler, and shooter. These pursuits continue to fuel my passion for conservation and inform every aspect of my work leading the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife) as Director.

Things have sure changed since my childhood. Increased urbanization of the landscape and people with less time to spend outdoors have led to significant declines in hunting and fishing participation over the last 40 years, not only in our state but across the country. These shifting societal trends have profound implications for the future of wildlife conservation in North America and call for a new funding paradigm.

As many outdoorspeople now know, MassWildlife's work to conserve fish and wildlife for the benefit of all citizens still relies primarily on license sales and "Federal Aid" collected by the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration program as an excise tax on the sales of hunting and fishing gear. Our license-buyers, program volunteers, and donors have made possible our work to fulfill our conservation mission to date and we couldn't have done it without them. Looking to the future, however, license fees alone (the fee-based model) will not sustain the conservation of all wildlife and their habitats much longer. While we at MassWildlife continue to work hard to retain, recruit, and reactivate hunters, anglers, and trappers, the fact is less than 5 percent of Massachusetts residents currently participate in these activities.

I want to thank my fellow licensed anglers, hunters, and trappers, who are and have been MassWildlife's vital partners through the years: providing financial support; sharing observations in the field and serving as stewards, both of wildlife and by looking out for our Wildlife Management Areas; giving time volunteering, mentoring, and inspiring the next generation of conservationists; and offering input, support, and enthusiasm for MassWildlife's programs and services. Anglers, trappers and hunters are all part of our working landscapes here in Massachusetts. For example, hunters help state fish and wildlife agencies manage deer populations so that they are in balance both with the available habitat and with the needs and expectations of landowners, while providing food for their families.

The declines in hunting and angling participation and therefore license-buying have serious consequences that directly or indirectly impact everyone. Under its statutory authority, MassWildlife is responsible for conserving all wildlife in trust for all citizens in the Commonwealth. Everyone benefits from access to nature, open spaces, clean air and water, and healthy fish and wildlife populations. Over the course of this pandemic, many of us experienced firsthand just how important the outdoors, nature, and open spaces are to our overall health and wellbeing. Many of us found relief from the daily stress and anxiety of our worlds being turned upside-down by appreciating its peace and solitude, and enjoying nature-based activities like fishing, hunting, hiking, paddling, birdwatching, and camping.



MassWildlife Director Mark S. Tisa

Photo by Troy Gippis/MassWildlife

# LEGENDARY FISHING AWAITS!

## SALMON RIVER, PULASKI NEW YORK

**I**t only takes one light tackle hook-up for you to understand why they are called Steelhead.

Anglers from around the world will tell you that these underwater lightning bolts do more than steal your bait. By the time they have had their way with you, they'll have stolen your heart and soul. Whether heading upstream for a fall feeding frenzy or dropping back to Lake Ontario in the spring, these 5-10 lb. "chromers" will give you the freshwater fight that brings you back for more.

Let this be your year to experience the legendary waters of the Salmon River -- long regarded as one of North America's premier steelhead destinations!



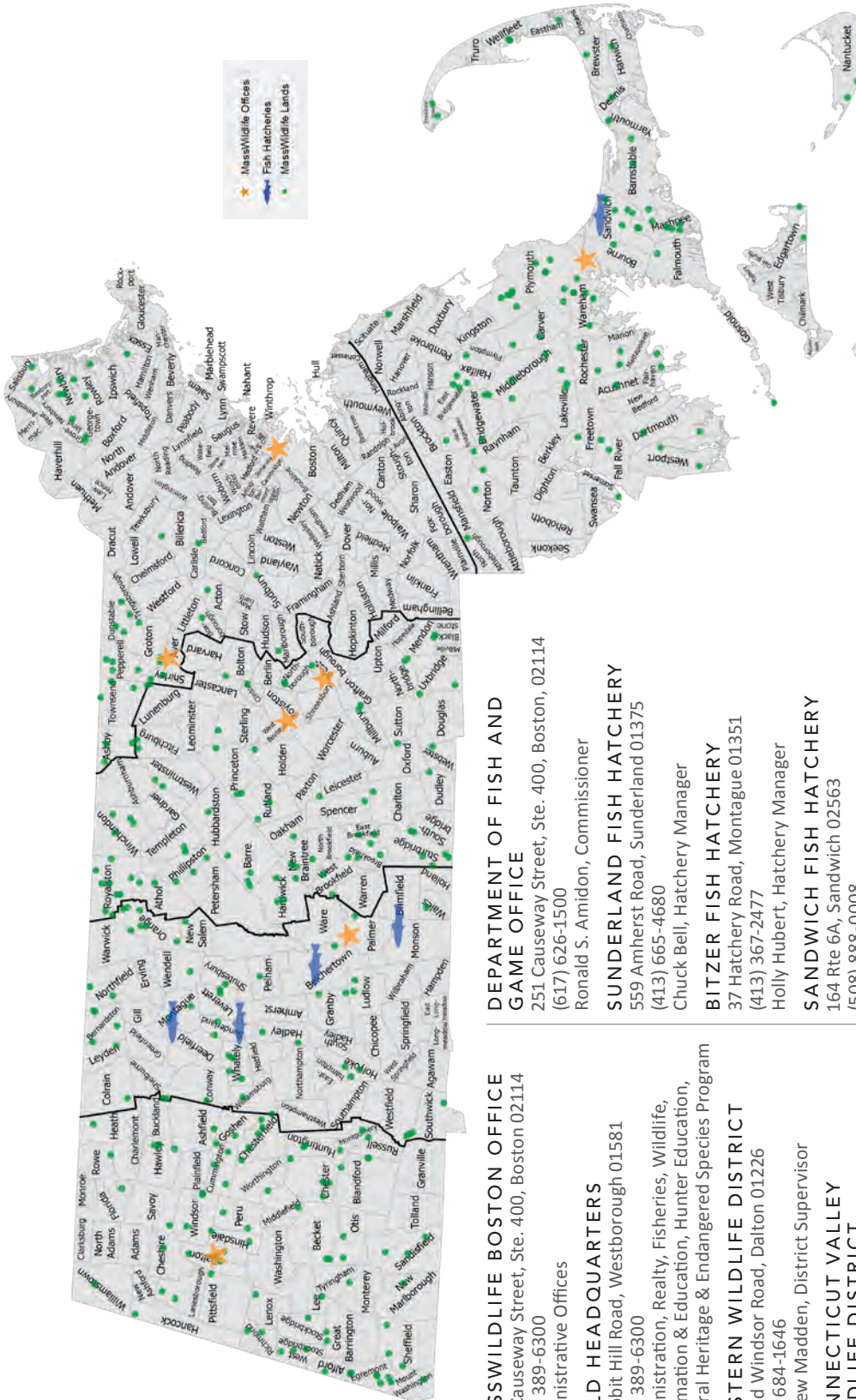
[visitoswegocounty.com](http://visitoswegocounty.com)

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## MASSWILDLIFE DIRECTORY



Explore the MassWildlife Lands Viewer online to learn more about land and waters open to hunting, fishing, trapping, and watching wildlife. Go to [mass.gov/dfw/wildlife-lands](http://mass.gov/dfw/wildlife-lands).

**MASSWILDLIFE BOSTON OFFICE**  
251 Causeway Street, Ste. 400, Boston 02114  
(508) 389-6300  
Administrative Offices

**FIELD HEADQUARTERS**  
1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough 01581  
(508) 389-6300  
Administration, Realty, Fisheries, Wildlife,  
Information & Education, Hunter Education,  
Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program

**WESTERN WILDLIFE DISTRICT**  
88 Old Windsor Road, Dalton 01226  
(413) 684-1646  
Andrew Madden, District Supervisor

**CONNECTICUT VALLEY  
WILDLIFE DISTRICT**  
341 East Street, Belchertown 01007  
(413) 323-7632  
Joseph Rogers, District Supervisor

**CENTRAL WILDLIFE DISTRICT**  
211 Temple Street, West Boylston 01583  
(508) 835-3607  
Todd Olanyk, District Supervisor

**NORTHEAST WILDLIFE DISTRICT**  
85 Fitchburg Road, Ayer 01432  
(978) 772-2145  
Patricia Huckery, District Supervisor

**SOUTHEAST WILDLIFE DISTRICT**  
195 Bournedale Road, Buzzards Bay 02532  
(508) 759-3406  
Jason Zimmer, District Supervisor

**DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND  
GAME OFFICE**  
251 Causeway Street, Ste. 400, Boston, 02114  
(617) 626-1500  
Ronald S. Amidon, Commissioner

**SUNDERLAND FISH HATCHERY**  
559 Amherst Road, Sunderland 01375  
(413) 665-4680  
Chuck Bell, Hatchery Manager

**BITZER FISH HATCHERY**  
37 Hatchery Road, Montague 01351  
(413) 367-2477  
Holly Hubert, Hatchery Manager

**SANDWICH FISH HATCHERY**  
164 Rte 6A, Sandwich 02563  
(508) 888-0008  
Adam Davies, Hatchery Manager

**ROGER REED FISH HATCHERY  
(CLOSED TO PUBLIC)**  
693 Ware Street, Palmer, MA  
(413) 283-7440  
Daniel Marchant, Hatchery Manager

**MCLAUGHLIN FISH HATCHERY**  
90 East Street, Belchertown 01007  
(413) 323-7671  
Kurt Palmateer, Hatchery Manager

**CONTACT US**  
[mass.wildlife@mass.gov](mailto:mass.wildlife@mass.gov)

**QUESTIONS?**  
Email us at [mass.wildlife@mass.gov](mailto:mass.wildlife@mass.gov)  
Get MassWildlife's E-Newsletter:  
[mass.gov/dfw/newsletter](http://mass.gov/dfw/newsletter)

CONNECT WITH US!



# ENVIRONMENTAL POLICE

The mission of the Massachusetts Environmental Police (MEP) is to protect the environment and natural resources of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts through enforcement, education, and public outreach.

## TO REPORT VIOLATIONS

**Emergency 24/7 Statewide Dispatch**  
**(800) 632-8075**  
**(617) 626-1665**  
[mass.gov/ole](http://mass.gov/ole)

### MASSACHUSETTS ENVIRONMENTAL POLICE BOSTON HQ

Shaun T. Santos, Colonel  
 251 Causeway Street, Suite 101  
 Boston, MA 02114

### BOAT AND RECREATION VEHICLE REGISTRATION OFFICES

#### Boston

(617) 626-1610

#### Hyannis

(508) 771-8382

#### Worcester

(508) 753-0603

#### Fall River

(508) 679-8287

#### Springfield

(413) 733-1642

### OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE (OHV) AND BOATING SAFETY COURSES

(508) 564-4961, [mass.gov/boat-and-off-highway-vehicle-ohv-safety-courses](http://mass.gov/boat-and-off-highway-vehicle-ohv-safety-courses)

## SALVAGE OF DEER, MOOSE, AND BEAR

ROAD-KILLED DEER may be kept by a Massachusetts driver or passenger of vehicle killing said deer if reported to MEP at (800) 632-8075 immediately and then tagged at a MassWildlife or MEP office within 24 hours.

ROAD-KILLED MOOSE OR BEAR may not be kept by a Massachusetts driver or passenger of the vehicle killing the said moose or bear. The disposition of any moose or bear carcass is only at the discretion of MEP or MassWildlife. To report a road-killed moose or bear, call MassWildlife at (508) 389-6300 or the MEP number listed above.



Williamstown, MA | Birmingham, AL

## About This Guide

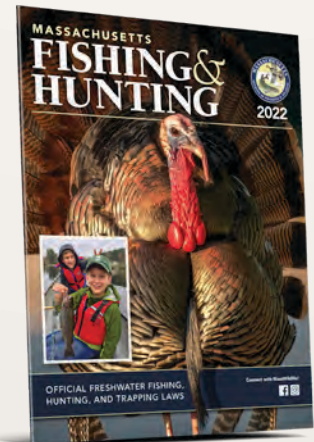
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### Graphic Design:

Jon Gulley, Dane Fay, John Corey,  
 Evelyn Haddad, Chris Sobolowski



## BE A PATRIOT

Help our Nation's symbol continue its comeback to Massachusetts. Give to MassWildlife's Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program to keep eagles and other rare animals and plants from disappearing forever.

**Donate Today**  
 Make checks payable to "Comm. of MA—NHESP" and mail to MassWildlife, 1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA 01581.  
 Or contribute on your state income tax return.

[MASS.GOV/NHESP](http://MASS.GOV/NHESP)



## NOTICE

This *Guide* contains a summary of the laws and regulations in place as of October 10, 2021. Any changes in law or regulation enacted after October 10, 2021 are publicized by MassWildlife through releases to the news media, all license sales outlets, and on its website. These are not the complete laws and regulations. Laws and regulations (MGL Ch. 131 and 321 CMR) are subject to change.

# LICENSES

## HUNTING, FRESHWATER FISHING & TRAPPING

**Licenses are valid from January 1 through December 31**

(except for limited term licenses).

### Who Needs a License?

**Hunting:** Licenses are required for anyone 15 years of age and over for hunting any game bird or mammal. No person under the age of 12 may hunt. (See Youth Hunters, pages 24–25)

**Fishing:** Licenses are required for anyone 15 years of age and over for fishing the inland (fresh) waters of Massachusetts. Anglers under 15 may fish, but do not need a license. A freshwater (inland) fishing license is not required on the Merrimack River seaward of the first upstream bridge (northbound traffic) of Route 495 in Haverhill, however, a saltwater fishing permit is required. (See page 7)

**Trapping:** A license is required for all persons age 12 years of age and older. In addition, to trap on the land of another, a Trap Registration Number is required.

**AGRICULTURAL LANDOWNERS:** Any person who owns or leases land that is principally used for agriculture and any immediate family members who are domiciled on said land do not need a hunting, fishing, or trapping license to hunt, fish, or trap on that property. Permits and stamps are still required.

### RESIDENT & NON-RESIDENT LICENSES:

To obtain a resident hunting, fishing, or trapping license, applicant must reside in Massachusetts for six consecutive months immediately prior to purchase.

A valid Massachusetts non-resident license is required for all non-resident anglers and hunters ages 15 and older. A Big Game License is required of all non-residents to hunt deer, bear, and wild turkey and allows for hunting of small game. For hunting small game only, a non-resident Small Game license is required. (see page 19 for non-resident hunter information)

### Purchasing Licenses, Stamps & Permits

Licenses, stamps, and permits may be purchased online by anglers 15 years and older, and by hunters and trappers 18 years or older at [mass.gov/massfishhunt](http://mass.gov/massfishhunt).

Minor hunters may purchase licenses, stamps, and permits online, at MassWildlife offices, and other license vendors. Minors must have parental consent (sworn affidavit online or written when in person) to purchase a license, and must either attest that they will always hunt with licensed individual at least 18 year old, or have taken hunter education. See page 24. Licenses, permits, and stamps are not transferable. If you have difficulty purchasing these products through the MassFishHunt system, call (844) 595-2930.

### Hunting/Sporting License

First ever hunting and sporting licenses for anyone aged 18 years or older can be purchased only if the buyer has successfully completed a Basic Hunter Education course from any jurisdiction or held a hunting license from any jurisdiction prior to 2007.

### Falconry

Hunting with birds of prey is allowed under a special permit from MassWildlife. A hunting license is required. Federal and state waterfowl stamps and HIP registration required when hunting waterfowl (see page 40). A Pheasant/Quail Permit is required when hunting ring-necked pheasant or bobwhite quail. All other hunting regulations apply. Pheasant, bobwhite quail, ruffed grouse, cottontail rabbit, snowshoe hare, and gray squirrel may be taken from the respective opening day **through March 15th**. Unprotected birds and mammals (see page 18, Open Seasons) may be taken by falconry except in areas closed for the taking of such animals. Falconers shall not practice falconry on posted land without permission. Contact MassWildlife at (508) 389-6300 for more information.

### Trapping License & Trap Registration Number

To trap on the land of another, a Trap Registration Number is required and may be obtained from MassWildlife by calling (508) 389-6300 only after successful completion of a Trapper Education course from any U.S. state. To obtain a trapping license, minors 12–17 years-old must have consent from a parent or guardian. (See page 46)

### LICENSE, PERMIT, TAG DISPLAY:

All hunters, anglers and trappers must have their license, permits and stamps in possession while engaging in these activities. Hunters and anglers may display a true, complete and legible image of a valid license using a mobile device. Hunters must comply with all tagging requirements. If a tag is required, as it is for hunting deer, bear, and turkey, hunters must carry a paper copy of the license, permits and tags.

## PERMITS

**NEW:** Fees for resident and non-resident permits have changed. See page 8.

### NEW — PHEASANT/QUAIL PERMIT:

Required by all persons aged 15 years or older (including falconers) to hunt, take or possess pheasants or bobwhite quail harvested within Massachusetts, except for those hunting or possessing pheasants or quail harvested on licensed commercial shooting preserves. All birds harvested on commercial shooting preserves must be tagged with a MassWildlife supplied adhesive yellow harvest tag.

**ANTLERLESS DEER PERMIT:** Required to take an antlerless deer during archery, shotgun, and primitive firearms seasons in all zones. The deadline to apply for an antlerless deer permit is July 16 at any license vendor or online through the MassFishHunt system. Only one application per person. The application is free. (see page 28)

**YOUTH DEER HUNT PERMIT:** Youth hunters ages 12–17 are required to obtain a free permit to hunt deer on the designated day. (see page 25)

**BEAR PERMIT:** Required to hunt bear. Hunters may purchase this permit when purchasing their hunting/sporting license or at any time prior to the end of the third segment of the bear season through any license vendor or or online through the MassFishHunt system.

**TURKEY PERMIT:** Required to hunt turkey. Hunters may purchase this permit when purchasing their hunting/sporting license or at any time prior to the end of the fall turkey season through any license vendor or or online through the MassFishHunt system.

**YOUTH TURKEY HUNT PERMIT:** Youth hunters ages 12–17 are required to obtain a free permit/authorization to hunt turkey on the designated day. (see page 24)

## SPECIAL LICENSES/PERMITS

Special authorization is necessary for sale, possession, importation or release of certain fish and wildlife, and for fur dealers, propagators, wildlife rehabilitators, taxidermists and/or fur buyers. Sale and importation of baitfish require separate dealer and importation permits. Apply to MassWildlife Boston office, Permit Section (617) 626-1575. For permits regarding crossbows, falconry, problem animal control, or shooting preserves contact Field Headquarters at (508) 389-6300.

## YOUR LICENSE DOLLARS AT WORK

Did you know your license dollars and a federal excise tax on your purchase of hunting and fishing equipment pays for most of MassWildlife's fish, wildlife and habitat management and its other conservation programs? Since 1938, the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife has partnered with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, sportsmen and women, and the fishing, hunting, shooting, and boating industries to fund fish and wildlife projects through the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program. Today, this pioneering program serves as a cost-effective model for fish and wildlife conservation by providing fish and wildlife access to those who both funded and directly benefit from the resource—the anglers and hunters. Their contributions through this “user pay, public benefit” conservation model—funded by license purchases and excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment—benefit all Massachusetts residents, fish, wildlife and their habitats.



## STAMPS

**NEW:** Fees for resident and non-resident stamps have changed. See page 8.

**ARCHERY STAMP:** Required to hunt deer during the archery deer season.

**PRIMITIVE FIREARMS STAMP:** Required to hunt deer during the primitive firearms deer season.

**MASSACHUSETTS WATERFOWL STAMP:** Required of all waterfowl (ducks and geese) hunters age 15 and older. Massachusetts state stamps are valid Jan. 1 – Dec. 31 and may be purchased online at

[mass.gov/massfishhunt](http://mass.gov/massfishhunt) or wherever hunting licenses are sold. This stamp is electronic, there are no physical stamps. Stamp purchase includes mandatory Harvest Information Program (HIP) Registration.

### **FEDERAL DUCK STAMP: (\$25.00, plus federal regulatory processing fee)**

Required of all waterfowl hunters 16 years or older. Federal stamps are valid July 1 – June 30 of the following year. Federal eDuck Stamps are available for purchase online through MassFishHunt ([mass.gov/massfishhunt](http://mass.gov/massfishhunt)) or wherever hunting licenses are sold. The Federal eDuck Stamp is a temporary stamp expiring 45 days from the date of purchase.

Before the eDuck Stamp expires, a physical Federal Duck Stamp will be sent to customers via U.S. mail. Upon receipt of the physical Federal Duck Stamp, it must be signed across the face in ink and carried while waterfowl hunting. If a physical Duck Stamp does not arrive after a few weeks, contact Amplex at [duckstamp@amplex.com](mailto:duckstamp@amplex.com) or (800) 852-4897. If you experience difficulty purchasing the Federal eDuck Stamp through the MassFishHunt system, call (844) 595-2930. Physical federal waterfowl stamps are also available at all National Wildlife Refuges and select post offices.

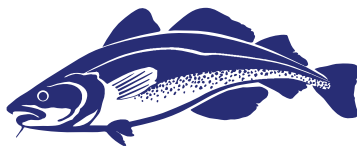
## MARINE FISHERIES

### Have any questions regarding saltwater fishing regulations?

Call the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries information hotline at (617) 626-1520, visit [mass.gov/marinefisheries](http://mass.gov/marinefisheries), or email: [marine.fish@mass.gov](mailto:marine.fish@mass.gov)

## Marine Fisheries

Commonwealth of Massachusetts



## SALTWATER FISHING PERMITS

Saltwater anglers in Massachusetts are required to purchase a state recreational saltwater fishing permit. The fee for this permit is \$10 and is the same cost for all anglers, including non-residents. Anglers younger than 16, or disabled, or who fish only on charter boats or "head boats" are exempt from this requirement. Anglers age 60 and older will need to obtain a permit, but the saltwater permit is free. The permit is available online, by mail, and in person at participating vendors and the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries offices in Gloucester, Boston, and New Bedford. For more information, please visit: [mass.gov/dmf/saltwaterpermits](http://mass.gov/dmf/saltwaterpermits).



Photo by Troy Gipps/MassWildlife

## 2022 LICENSE, STAMP &amp; PERMIT FEES

LICENSES	FEE
Resident Fishing <sup>1</sup>	26.00
Resident Minor Fishing (Citizen, Age 15–17) <sup>1</sup>	FREE
Resident Fishing (Citizen, Age 65–69) <sup>1</sup>	13.00
Resident Fishing (Citizen, Age 70 or over) Or paraplegic, blind, intellectually disabled <sup>2</sup>	FREE
Non-resident Fishing <sup>1</sup>	36.00
Non-resident Minor Fishing (Age 15–17) <sup>1</sup>	6.80
Resident Fishing (3-day) <sup>1</sup>	10.00
Non-resident Fishing (3-day) <sup>1</sup>	20.90
Quabbin 1-day Fishing	5.00
Resident Hunting <sup>1</sup>	26.00
Resident Minor Hunting (Citizen, Age 15–17) <sup>1</sup>	6.50
Resident Hunting (Citizen, Age 65–69) <sup>1</sup>	13.00
Resident/Non-resident Hunting, Paraplegic <sup>2</sup>	FREE
Non-resident (adult/minor) Hunting, Big Game <sup>1</sup>	98.00
Non-resident (adult/minor) Hunting, Small Game <sup>1</sup>	64.00
Resident Sporting <sup>1</sup>	47.00
Resident Sporting (Citizen, Age 65–69) <sup>1</sup>	23.50
Resident Sporting (Citizen, Age 70 or over, includes trapping)	FREE
Resident/Non-resident Sporting, Paraplegic <sup>2</sup>	FREE
Resident Trapping <sup>1</sup>	32.00
Resident Minor Trapping (Citizen, Age 12–17) <sup>1</sup>	6.50
Resident Trapping (Citizen, Age 65–69) <sup>1</sup>	16.00
Resident Commercial Shooting Preserve (1-day) <sup>1</sup>	6.00
Non-resident Commercial Shooting Preserve (1-day) <sup>1</sup>	8.00
STAMPS & PERMITS	FEE
Wildlands Stamp, Resident	5.00
Wildlands Stamp, Non-resident	5.00
Antlerless Deer Permit (when issued), Resident	10.00
Antlerless Deer Permit (when issued), Non-resident	10.00
Archery Deer Season Stamp, Resident	10.00
Archery Deer Season Stamp, Non-resident	10.00
Primitive Firearms Deer Season Stamp, Resident	10.00
Primitive Firearms Deer Season Stamp, Non-resident	10.00
Bear Permit, Resident	10.00
Bear Permit, Non-resident	10.00
Pheasant/Quail Permit, Resident	4.00
Pheasant/Quail Permit, Non-resident	6.00
Turkey Permit, Resident	10.00
Turkey Permit, Non-resident	10.00
Massachusetts Waterfowl Stamp, Resident	10.00
Massachusetts Waterfowl Stamp, Non-resident	10.00
Trap Registration <sup>2</sup>	8.00
Non-resident Trapping Permit <sup>2</sup>	203.00
Resident Fur Buyer Permit <sup>2</sup>	33.00
Non-resident Fur Buyer Permit <sup>2</sup>	93.00

1 Price does not include the \$5.00 Wildlands Conservation Stamp that is added to the first resident license and all non-resident licenses purchased.

2 Requires pre-approval for first-time applicants or cannot be purchased online; contact MassWildlife for instructions at (508) 389-6300.

**WHERE TO BUY:** Most licenses, permits, and stamps can be bought online using MassFishHunt ([mass.gov/massfishhunt](http://mass.gov/massfishhunt)) with a computer, tablet, or smartphone. To purchase in-person, use [mass.gov/fishhuntlicensemap](http://mass.gov/fishhuntlicensemap) to find a license vendor near you.

**UNDERSTANDING YOUR BILL:** All funds from freshwater fishing, hunting, and trapping licenses go directly into the Inland Fish and Game Fund, which can only be used to support MassWildlife's programs and services. Depending on where you buy your license, additional fees may apply that are not collected by MassWildlife. Administrative and convenience fees are collected by Kalkomey Enterprises, the company that operates the online MassFishHunt licensing system. Agent fees are collected by license vendors, such as sporting goods stores or town offices.

- If you buy online, an administrative fee of \$1.45 per license will be charged, plus a 2% convenience fee on the total transaction.
- If you buy at a license vendor, such as a sporting goods store or bait and tackle shop, an administrative fee of \$1.45 per license will be charged, plus an agent fee of up to \$1.50.
- If you buy at a city or town clerk office, an administrative fee of \$1.45 per license will be charged, plus an agent fee of \$1.00.
- There are no additional fees charged for licenses purchased at offices of MassWildlife or the Division of Marine Fisheries, where only cash or checks are accepted.

**LICENSE PRICE CHANGES:** Beginning in 2022, the fees for some licenses, permits, and stamps will gradually increase over the next 5 years. After 26 years without a fee increase, these changes were approved to help fund MassWildlife's programs and services. To learn more about how MassWildlife is funded and view the 5-year fee schedule, please visit [mass.gov/masswildlife-funding](http://mass.gov/masswildlife-funding).



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*or is your dream to watch your child take a  
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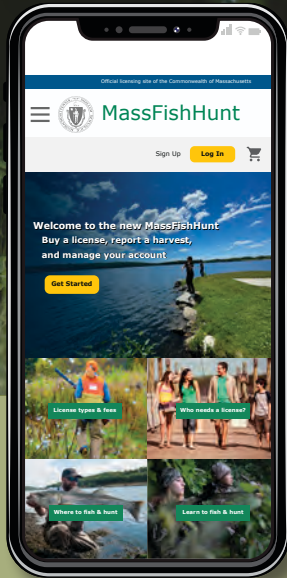
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# Making outdoor memories just got easier



Log into MassFishHunt to:

- Buy a license
- Apply for permits
- Report a harvest
- Sign up for a class

New official MassFishHunt licensing system launches December 2021.

Features:

- Linked family accounts
- Auto-renew and buy-it-again for quick checkout
- Secure system keeps your information safe

**Get started at [Mass.gov/NewMassFishHunt](https://Mass.gov/NewMassFishHunt)**



*(Director's Message: continued from page 2)*

MassWildlife offers educational programs like Project WILD and Junior Duck Stamp to help our youth understand, appreciate, and forge connections with the natural world around them. We also manage over 226,000 acres of wildlife lands for everyone to enjoy, and offer detailed maps and online tools to show visitors how to access these properties and enhance their experiences while they are there. By fielding inquiries and offering a variety of fact sheets on common wildlife in Massachusetts, our staff provides advice and detailed information to homeowners and municipalities so they can understand and “make good neighbors” of the wildlife in their communities. In addition to common wildlife, we protect and manage over 430 rare animals and plants and their habitats. Providing and enriching opportunities for the public to enjoy nature through wildlife-based recreation of every type is an integral part of our mission.

So how as a society can we continue to meet and fund our collective conservation goals? Unfortunately, for the first time in 26 years, MassWildlife had to increase its license fees in order to maintain the current level of programs and services that you have all come to enjoy and appreciate. But as I said earlier, the current license-fee model is just not a sustainable, long-term model for funding all our wildlife conservation needs and challenges, especially in the face of the ever-increasing threats of habitat fragmentation and loss, invasive species, and climate change.

This challenge of funding wildlife conservation in the 21st century is by no means unique to Massachusetts. Like Massachusetts, most states are heavily dependent on license sales and Federal Aid to fund their conservation programs. State fish and wildlife agencies across the country are facing similar long-term declines in license sales and the growing challenges to funding wildlife conservation. As a result, several states, including Missouri, Virginia, Texas, Georgia, and Arkansas, have implemented solutions to provide dedicated agency funding beyond just revenue from the sale of hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses. The Commonwealth's economy and quality of life depend on healthy landscapes, sustainable fish and wildlife populations, and access to nature for all people. If we work together, Massachusetts, too, can meet the challenge of shifting to a more equitable and sustainable funding model for the future of wildlife conservation in the Commonwealth.

—Director Mark S. Tisa, Ph.D., M.B.A.



# FISHING SEASONS AND LIMITS

SPECIES	OPEN SEASON (ALL DATES INCLUSIVE)	DAILY CREEL LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH <sup>1</sup>
<b>Trout</b> <sup>2</sup>			
Lakes, ponds, major rivers <sup>3, 5, 6</sup>	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31	3	—
Housatonic River <sup>4</sup>	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31	1	20"
All other rivers and brooks	Apr. 1 – Sept. 10	8	—
	Sept. 11 – Mar. 31, 2023	3	—
<b>Lake Trout</b>			
Wachusett Reservoir <sup>6</sup>	(see note 6)	3	—
Quabbin <sup>6</sup>	(see note 6)	2	18"
<b>Landlocked Salmon</b> <sup>6</sup>	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31	2	15"
<b>American Shad</b> <sup>7</sup> (Connecticut and Merrimack rivers only, including their tributaries.)	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31	3	—
<b>Chain Pickerel</b>	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31	5	15"
<b>Black Bass</b> (Largemouth and Smallmouth, singly or combined):	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31	5	12"
<b>Northern Pike</b>	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31	1	28"
<b>Tiger Muskellunge</b>	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31	1	28"
<b>Walleye</b>	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31	5	14"
<b>Smelt</b> <sup>8</sup>	Jan. 1 – Feb. 28	—	—
	May 16 – Dec. 31	—	—
<b>All Other Freshwater Species</b> <sup>9</sup>	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31	—	—
<b>Striped Bass and Herring:</b> For season, size, and possession limits call the Division of Marine Fisheries at (617) 626-1520, or visit <a href="http://mass.gov/marinefisheries">mass.gov/marinefisheries</a> .			
<b>Possession of:</b> Sturgeon (all species), American Brook Lamprey, Atlantic (sea-run) Salmon, Bridle Shiner, Burbot, Eastern Silvery Minnow, Lake Chub, Long-nose Sucker, and Northern Redbelly Dace is illegal! <b>If caught, release immediately.</b> This means remove hook or cut line and return fish to water <b>immediately</b> — do not pose for photographs, place on a stringer, hold in a net, or delay in any way the immediate return and release of these rare fish to the water!			

**1 Minimum length** is measured as the straight line (not curved over the body) from the tip of the snout to the tip of the tail. The tips of any forked tail may be squeezed together for the final measurement.

**2 Trout** applies to Brook, Brown, Rainbow, and Tiger Trout (a cross between a female Brown and a male Brook Trout). From Apr. 1 to Sept. 10, no more than 8 trout (as defined) may be taken daily, and only 3 of those trout may be from lakes, ponds, or major rivers. From Sept. 11 to Mar. 31, no more than 3 trout (as defined) may be taken daily.

**3 Major Rivers:** Childs, Coonamessett, Deerfield, Farmington, Green (Colrain), Green (Great Barrington), Ipswich, Jones, Mashpee, Millers, Nissitissit, North (Colrain), North (West Branch), Parker, Quaboag, Quinapoxet, Quinebaug, Seven Mile, Santuit, Scorton Creek, Shawsheen, Squannacook, Stillwater (Sterling, Princeton), Swift (East Branch), Swift (Winsor Dam to Ware River, except as posted), Tully (East and West Branches), Ware, Ware (East Branch), Westfield (all branches).

**4 Mainstem Housatonic only,** from the confluence of the East and West Branches to the MA–CT line, exclusive of the catch-and-release areas where no trout may be kept.

**5 Special Brown Trout water:** South Pond (Quacumquasit), Brookfield. Total daily creel is 3 trout but only 1 may be a Brown Trout and it must be at least 15".

**6 Quabbin and Wachusett Reservoirs:** Opening and closing dates are set by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). The Quabbin Reservoir Fishing Season generally opens on the third Saturday of April and runs through the third Saturday in October, but these dates may be adjusted due to weather and other factors. Quabbin Reservoir and its tributary streams within the Quabbin Reservation are closed to all fishing except during the open season as set by DCR. The Quabbin Fishing Guide is available at: [mass.gov/dcr/quabbinfish](http://mass.gov/dcr/quabbinfish) or by calling (413) 323-7221. The Wachusett/Sudbury/West Waushacum fishing season normally opens the first Saturday in April and closes November

30, but the DCR/DWSP may alter those dates depending on ice conditions. At Wachusett Reservoir, shoreline fishing only is allowed from Gate 6 on Route 70 to Gate 36 on Route 110. A Wachusett and Sudbury Reservoir Fishing Guide is available at: [mass.gov/dcr/wachusettfish](http://mass.gov/dcr/wachusettfish) or by calling (508) 792-7806.

**7 American Shad** are Catch-and-Release ONLY on all waters except the Connecticut and Merrimack rivers, including their tributaries.

**8 Smelt** may be taken by hook and line only.

**9** Excluding the state- and federally-listed species listed after the "Possession of:" heading in the bottom row of the table shown above.

## ICE FISHING

All anglers are allowed up to five hooks through the ice at one time. A hook is defined as an angling device attached to the line of a tip-up or jig stick that is designed to take one fish at a time. This includes plain hooks, treble hooks, spinners, spoons, bait harnesses, jigs, or plugs. The device in question is not restricted to a single hook — lures with multiple treble hooks count as one hook in the water. Hooks can be on any combination of tip-ups or jig sticks, but no more than five hooks total.

All anglers must be able to tend their own hooks (tip-ups or jig sticks). Adults may assist minors with cutting holes or removing hooks, but minors must be capable of tending tip-ups or jig sticks on their own. See ice strength and safety tips on page 14.



## BAIT

It is unlawful to take baitfish for the purpose of sale from the inland waters of the Commonwealth. Individuals trapping fish for personal use as baitfish may use only one trap.

**BAITFISH** may be taken by licensed anglers at any time for personal use by all lawful methods, including a rectangular net not exceeding 36 square feet of net area or by a hoop or circular net not exceeding 6 feet in diameter or with a fish trap with openings not exceeding one inch. Nets designed to gill fish are prohibited. Only the fish species listed below may be taken for personal use as bait, live or dead, by licensed anglers.

Banded Killifish	Pumpkinseed
Fathead Minnow	Rainbow Smelt*
Golden Shiner	Yellow Perch
Mummichog	White Sucker

\* SMELT may be taken **only** by hook and line. Using smelt as bait in inland waters outside of the smelt season is prohibited.

**HERRING:** For regulations on herring contact the Division of Marine Fisheries, (617) 626-1520 or [mass.gov/marinefisheries](http://mass.gov/marinefisheries).

## REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	DAILY BAG LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT	SIZE LIMIT
<b>For Personal Consumption</b>				
Bullfrog, Green Frog	July 16 – Sept. 30	12	24	none
Snapping Turtle	Jan. 1 – Apr. 30 July 17 – Dec. 31	2	2	12 in.*
<b>For Bait</b>				
Bullfrog, Green Frog, Pickerel Frog, Wood Frog	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31	10	10	less than 2½ in.**

\*Straight line carapace (shell) length

\*\*Snout to vent length

No reptile or amphibian may be taken from the wild in Massachusetts for purposes of sale. No reptile or amphibian may be taken with a firearm.

**Fishing license required.**

**For Personal Consumption:** Snapping turtles may be taken by hand, hand-held dip net, or gaff.

**For Bait:** Bullfrogs, green frogs, wood frogs, and pickerel frogs may be taken by hand or hand-held dip net.

## FREE FISHING WEEKEND

June 4–5, 2022  
No freshwater  
license needed!



Photo courtesy MassWildlife/SFAP

# STOP THE SPREAD

of Nuisance Aquatic Plants and Animals

**Boaters, anglers, and other lake and river users** are reminded that many unwanted, invasive species can be transported and inadvertently introduced to new waters by hitchhiking undetected on your boat, trailer, motor, waders, diving equipment, and other fishing gear. Please **clean** and decontaminate your boat, motor, trailer, ropes, and gear; **drain** your boat, motor, and live well(s); and make sure your equipment is thoroughly **dry** before entering any body of water. For more information contact Massachusetts DCR Lakes and Ponds Program at (617) 626-1250 or [mass.gov/lakesandponds](http://mass.gov/lakesandponds).

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## CATCH AND RELEASE AREAS

Artificial lures only. No bait in possession. Go to [mass.gov/dfw/cr-areas](http://mass.gov/dfw/cr-areas) for maps of catch and release areas.

**HOUSATONIC RIVER:** From the Rte. 20 bridge in Lee downstream to Willow Mill Dam AND from Glendale Dam downstream to the RR bridge in Great Barrington. No fishing from June 15 – Aug. 31 inclusive within 100 feet of the mouths of posted tributaries: Beartown Brook; Goose Pond Brook; Hop Brook; and Mohawk Brook.

**RED BROOK:** From the outlet of White Island Pond to the inlet of Buttermilk Bay.

**NISSITISSIT RIVER:** From the New Hampshire border to the Prescott St. Bridge. FLY FISHING ONLY (year-round).

**SWIFT RIVER:** Winsor Dam to Rte. 9, catch-and-release FLY FISHING ONLY (year-round). Rte. 9 to Cady Lane, catch-and-release, artificial lures only (July 1 – Dec. 31); fish harvest and bait allowed (Jan. 1 – June 30).

**DEERFIELD RIVER:** Fife Brook Dam to Hoo-sac Tunnel, and the section extending from Pelham Brook to the Mohawk Campground.

**QUASHNET RIVER:** From the outlet of John's Pond to the sign 0.1 mile below Rte. 28.

**WESTFIELD RIVER, EAST BRANCH:** Immediately below the Chesterfield Gorge parking lot in Chesterfield to the gate north of the Corps of Engineers parking lot at Knightville in Huntington.

**MILLERS RIVER:** Templeton/Athol RR bridge to the first dam in Athol and from Wendell Rd. bridge in Orange to the breached dam in Erving center.

## FISH CONSUMPTION ADVISORIES

The Mass. Dept. of Public Health (MDPH) has issued a statewide advisory for pregnant women, nursing mothers, women who may become pregnant, and children under 12 to refrain from consuming fish caught in freshwater due to elevated levels of mercury in fish. MDPH has also issued fish consumption advisories for the general public on selected bodies of water. For more information or a list of waters with fish consumption advisories, contact MDPH, Bureau of Environmental Health, at (617) 624-5757 or [mass.gov/dph](http://mass.gov/dph).

## INTERSTATE POND LICENSE REGULATIONS

**WALLUM LAKE, DOUGLAS:** Fishing permitted by persons duly licensed in Massachusetts or Rhode Island. Rhode Island regulations apply.

**LAKE MONOMONAC AND ROBBINS POND, WINCHENDON; LONG POND, TYNGSBORO AND DRACUT; BENT POND, WARWICK; TUXBURY POND, AMESBURY:** Fishing permitted by persons duly licensed in Massachusetts or New Hampshire. New Hampshire regulations apply.

**COLEBROOK RESERVOIR, TOLLAND; PERRY POND, DUDLEY; MUDDY POND, SOUTHBRIDGE; BREAKNECK POND, STURBRIDGE; CONGAMOND LAKE, SOUTHWICK; HAMILTON RESERVOIR, HOLLAND:** Fishing permitted by persons duly licensed in Massachusetts or Connecticut. Connecticut regulations apply to Colebrook Reservoir, Breakneck Pond, Perry Pond and Muddy Pond. Massachusetts regulations apply to Congamond Lake and Hamilton Reservoir.

**SHERMAN RESERVOIR, ROWE:** Massachusetts regulations apply and MA license required in MA. Vermont regulations apply and VT license required in VT.

# FISHING PROHIBITIONS

- **More than two hooks** for fishing open water or more than five hooks when ice fishing. A hook is defined as an angling device attached to a fishing line that is designed to take one fish at a time but is not limited to devices commonly called spinners, spoons, bait harnesses, jigs, or plugs.
- The taking of any fish from the inland waters of the Commonwealth for the purposes of sale.
- **Lead Sinkers, Lead Weights, and Lead Jigs Weighing Less Than an Ounce.** Any sinker or weight made from lead that weighs less than 1 ounce, and any lead jig (meaning any lead-weighted hook) that weighs less than 1 ounce, is prohibited for use in all inland waters of the Commonwealth. The term lead sinker shall not include any other sinkers, weights, fishing lures or fishing tackle including, but not limited to, artificial lures, hooks, weighted flies, and lead-core or other weighted fishing lines.
- **Possession of Sturgeon** (all species), American Brook Lamprey, Atlantic (sea-run) Salmon, Bridle Shiner, Burbot, Eastern Silvery Minnow, Lake Chub, Longnose Sucker, and Northern Redbelly Dace is illegal! If caught, release immediately. This means remove hook or cut line and return fish to water immediately — do not pose for photographs, place on a stringer, hold in a net, or delay in any way the immediate return and release of the fish to the water.
- **Releasing** fish or spawn into inland waters, except by permit.
- **Transporting** live fish (except bait for personal use) without a permit.
- **Jug, toggle, or trot line** fishing.
- **Snagging**
- **Poisons, explosives**
- **Littering** in inland waters.

## SPEARS, BOW AND ARROWS

May be used to take White Suckers and Carp only. Fishing license required.



Photo courtesy MassWildlife SFAP



# FRESHWATER SPORTFISHING AWARDS PROGRAM

Awards for freshwater fish are offered in 22 categories. Each qualified entry receives a bronze pin. The largest fish in each category each year also receives a gold pin and plaque. There are also Youth (17 and under) and Adult "Angler of the Year" awards given to anglers who have taken the greatest variety of "pinfish" during the calendar year. Fish must meet minimum weight or length requirements. All entries must be submitted within 30 days of the date of the catch.

## SUBMIT ENTIRIES ONLINE!

Save time and a stamp by submitting your Sportfishing Awards Program entry using the online affidavit. Find the form at [mass.gov/dfw/sportfishing-awards](http://mass.gov/dfw/sportfishing-awards). It's easy—just enter information about you and your catch, upload a photo of your fish, and submit! Online forms are processed faster than paper forms, allowing us to award pins and update the leader board more quickly.

Catch and Keep entries must be weighed on a scale certified by the State. Go to [mass.gov/dfw/sportfishing-awards](http://mass.gov/dfw/sportfishing-awards) for a list of weigh stations and to download an affidavit. This information is also available at MassWildlife offices.

## MINIMUM WEIGHTS AND LENGTHS

SPECIES	CATCH AND KEEP (WEIGHT)		CATCH AND RELEASE LENGTH (INCHES)
	ADULT	YOUTH	
Bowfin	6 lb. 0 oz.	4 lb. 0 oz.	26
Brook Trout	2 lb. 0 oz.	1 lb. 0 oz.	16
Brown Trout	4 lb. 0 oz.	2 lb. 0 oz.	22
Bullhead	2 lb. 0 oz.	1 lb. 0 oz.	15
Carp	15 lb. 0 oz.	10 lb. 0 oz.	31
Chain Pickerel	4 lb. 8 oz.	3 lb. 0 oz.	25
Channel Catfish	6 lb. 0 oz.	5 lb. 0 oz.	25
Crappie	1 lb. 8 oz.	1 lb. 0 oz.	14
Lake Trout	7 lb. 0 oz.	5 lb. 0 oz.	30
Landlocked Salmon <sup>1</sup>	4 lb. 0 oz.	3 lb. 0 oz.	22
Largemouth Bass	7 lb. 0 oz.	4 lb. 0 oz.	21
Northern Pike	15 lb. 0 oz.	10 lb. 0 oz.	36
Rainbow Trout	3 lb. 0 oz.	2 lb. 0 oz.	20
Shad	5 lb. 0 oz.	3 lb. 0 oz.	22
Smallmouth Bass	4 lb. 8 oz.	3 lb. 0 oz.	20
Sunfish <sup>2</sup>	0 lb. 12 oz.	0 lb. 8 oz.	10
Tiger Muskellunge	10 lb. 0 oz.	7 lb. 0 oz.	34
Tiger Trout	2 lb. 0 oz.	1 lb. 0 oz.	16
Walleye	4 lb. 0 oz.	2 lb. 0 oz.	24
White Catfish	4 lb. 0 oz.	2 lb. 0 oz.	19
White Perch	1 lb. 8 oz.	1 lb. 0 oz.	14
Yellow Perch	1 lb. 8 oz.	1 lb. 0 oz.	14

1 Landlocked Salmon are recognized only from Quabbin and Wachusett Reservoirs.

2 Sunfish category includes Redbreast Sunfish, Green Sunfish, Bluegill, Pumpkinseed, and Rock Bass.

## CATCH AND RELEASE ANGLERS: TIPS FOR MINIMIZING FISH STRESS

- If using bait, the use of circle hooks dramatically reduces the likelihood of gut-hooking a fish.
- Be attentive and set the hook immediately to prevent the fish from swallowing the hook (setting the hook is not necessary with circle hooks).
- Reduce the fight time. The longer the fish fights, the higher the stress level for the fish. This is particularly important when fishing for trout in periods of warmer water temperatures. If it takes you a long time to land a fish, your drag may be set too loosely or your gear may be too light for the fish you are catching.
- Use a fine-mesh landing net to reduce the amount of time required to land a fish.
- If the hook is swallowed, do not forcefully remove it. Cut the line as close to the mouth as possible and then release the fish.



## FRESHWATER SPORTFISHING AWARDS

Catch and Release Anglers: Remember to take a picture before releasing the fish at the site of capture. This photograph shows the proper method for measuring and photographing a Catch and Release awards entry.

- Wet your hands before touching the fish so you don't damage the protective mucous layer on the outside of the fish.
- Don't use the gills or eyes as a handhold. Support the belly of larger fish. Bass can be safely handled by holding the lower jaw, thumb in the mouth and forefinger under the chin.
- Quickly return fish to the water. Revive a fatigued fish by supporting it in a swimming position in the water; gently move it back and forth until it can swim off.



# ICE STRENGTH AND SAFETY TIPS

This ice strength and safety information is presented for the benefit of ice anglers and other winter sports people recreating on iced-over bodies of water.

The figures in the table to the right are for clear, blue ice on lakes and ponds. Reduce strength values 15% for clear blue, river ice. Slush or snow (white) ice is only one-half the strength of blue ice and can be very treacherous. "Honeycombed" ice, which occurs in the spring or during major winter thaws as the ice is melting, is the most dangerous type of ice and is best avoided unless the angler is certain there is a safe layer of solid ice beneath the honeycombed surface.

Anglers should also be aware that many lakes and ponds contain spring holes and other areas of current that may create deceptively dangerous thin spots in areas that are otherwise safe. Always use caution, and don't venture out onto unfamiliar waters without checking ice thickness frequently.

## ICE THICKNESS AND STRENGTH

ICE THICKNESS (INCHES)	PERMISSIBLE LOAD (ON NEW* CLEAR/BUE** ICE ON LAKES OR PONDS)
2" or less	STAY OFF!
4"	Ice fishing or other activities on foot
5"	Snowmobile or ATV
8"-12"	Car or small pickup truck
12"-15"	Medium truck

\* New ice is stronger than older ice.

\*\* White ice or "snow ice" is only about half as strong as new clear ice. Double the above thickness guidelines when traveling on white ice.

## HOW CAN YOU TELL IF ICE IS SAFE?

There are no guarantees. Always consider ice potentially dangerous. Assess ice safety by using an ice chisel to chop a hole in the ice to determine its thickness and condition. Make sure you continue to do this as you go further out on to the ice, because

the thickness of the ice will not be uniform all over the pond or lake. Be aware that ice tends to be thinner on lakes and ponds where there are spring holes, inlets or outlets. Don't venture onto ice-bound rivers or streams as the currents make ice thickness unpredictable.

For other ice safety tips and winter weather preparedness, visit [mass.gov/mema](http://mass.gov/mema).

## IF YOU, A COMPANION, OR PET FALLS THROUGH THE ICE

As with any emergency, don't panic! Call for help if there are people nearby. While it doesn't take long for the cold water to start slowing your physical and mental functions, you have more time than you might think; typically 2-5 minutes and perhaps longer if you are in good, physical condition. Air will remain trapped in your clothes for a short time aiding your

buoyancy. Kick your legs while grasping for firm ice. **Try to pull your body up using "ice pins" that should be hanging around your neck.** Once your torso is on firm ice, roll towards thicker ice. This will better distribute your weight. Remember that ice you previously walked on should be the safest. After you reach safe ice, don't waste precious time, you need to warm up and dry out. If you are in a remote area, this means getting to or starting a campfire. If you are in a more urban setting get to a car or house. Once there, get out of wet clothes, change into dry clothes to get warmed up and seek advice from your physician on medical attention. You need to warm up quickly to prevent hypothermia.

If a companion falls through the ice remember the phrase **"Reach-Throw-Go."** If you are unable to **reach** your friend from shore, **throw** him or her a rope, jumper cables, tree branch, or other object. If this does not work, **go** for help before you also become a victim. Get medical assistance for the victim immediately.

When walking on or near ice, keep your pets on a leash. If a pet falls through the ice do not attempt to rescue the pet, go for help. Well-meaning pet owners can too easily become rescue victims when trying to assist their pets.

Outdoor recreation activities on the ice are safe pursuits. By using a little common sense, these activities will stay that way.



Photo by Nicole McSweeney/MassWildlife

# MASSACHUSETTS BOATING LAWS: A SUMMARY

**BOAT REGISTRATION:** Registration and numbering of all motorized boats is required. This includes electric motors.

**MINIMUM AGE RESTRICTIONS:** No person under 12 years of age may operate a motorboat, unless accompanied on-board and directly supervised by a competent person 18 years of age or older. Personal watercraft (PWC) users must be at least 16 years of age in order to operate.

**BOAT SAFETY EDUCATION CERTIFICATION:** Youth between 12 and 15 years of age must complete an approved basic boating course in order to operate a motorboat without adult supervision. Upon successful completion of such a course, students are issued a state "boating safety certificate" which must be in the possession of the certified operator when underway. Prospective personal watercraft users 16 or 17 years of age must also complete an approved boating course.

**SAFETY EQUIPMENT:** Personal Flotation Devices (life jackets) are required to be worn by: (1) youth under 12 years of age, (2) personal watercraft users, (3) Stand Up Paddle Board (SUP) users, (4) water-skiers, and (5) canoeists/kayakers from September 15 – May 15 (including waterfowl hunters). A boat owner or a boat operator is responsible to ensure that all passengers on-board wear or have access to life jackets. When not in a bathing, swimming, or surf zone, all SUP users on inland lakes, rivers or coastal waters, are required by law to have a Type I, II, or III life jacket aboard. All motorboats (with the exception of personal watercraft) must be equipped with an anchor, manual bailer, and line. A paddle or an oar is required on boats less than 16 feet in length. Motorboats towing water-skiers must be equipped with a boarding ladder.

## BOATING PROHIBITIONS

The following types of operation are extremely unsafe and are prohibited.

- Operating any vessel under the influence of alcohol (BAC of .08 or greater) or drugs.
- Operating a motorboat within 150 feet of swimming areas.
- Operating in inland waters at a speed greater than 45 mph or operating at an excessive speed without regard for weather conditions, boat traffic, and other hazards.
- Operating a motorboat without properly working lights.
- Operating a motorboat during the nighttime while towing water-skiers, tubers, or others.
- Operating at greater than headway speed (6 mph or less) within 150 feet of a swimmer, water-skier, mooring area, marina, boat launch, or when the operator's vision is obscured in any way.
- Operating an overloaded vessel (carrying total weight that exceeds capacity plate recommendations or is excessive due to water conditions).
- Operating with passengers on the bow, gunwales, or any other place from which a person could fall overboard.
- Always operate at slow, no-wake speed (6 mph or less) within 150 feet of swimmers, shorelines, water-skiers, boat launches, rafts or floats, and moored or docked boats.

### PWC Operation is prohibited:

- By any person under age 16
- Between the hours of sunset and sunrise (i.e. night time)
- At high speed in congested areas
- On waterbodies under 75 acres
- Towing (water-skiers, tubers, boats, or others) is illegal.

**ACCIDENT REPORTING:** The operator of any motorboat involved in an accident which results in personal injury, death, or property damage (over \$500) must immediately notify the Massachusetts Environmental Police and file the appropriate accident report within 5 days for most boating accidents, within 2 days for boating incidents involving fatalities.

For further information on boating laws, boating education, or to obtain accident report forms contact the Massachusetts Environmental Police Boat & Recreation Vehicle Safety Bureau at (508) 564-4961 or visit [mass.gov/ole](http://mass.gov/ole).

## PERSONAL WATERCRAFT (JET SKI) OPERATION

By law, personal watercraft (PWC) operators are considered motorboat operators and must comply with all boating laws and navigation rules. In addition, PWC users must:

- Wear an approved life jacket at all times (operator and passengers).
- Attach the safety lanyard to the operator and the cutoff/kill switch.

## GOT LIFE JACKETS?

**Boat Smart From the Start — Wear Your Life Jacket!**  
From September 15 to May 15 all canoe or kayak occupants **MUST WEAR** a U.S. Coast Guard approved Personal Flotation Device (PFD).



## DO YOU WANT TO KNOW WHERE TO GO FISHING OR BOATING?

*Public Access to the Waters of Massachusetts* is a 146-page map booklet that provides information about current fishing and boating access sites. Send \$8.00 payable to the Commonwealth of MA by check to:

**Office of Fishing & Boating Access**  
Department of Fish & Game  
1 Rabbit Hill Road  
Westborough, MA 01581  
(508) 389-7810

To view fishing and boating access locations online, visit [mass.gov/fba](http://mass.gov/fba).



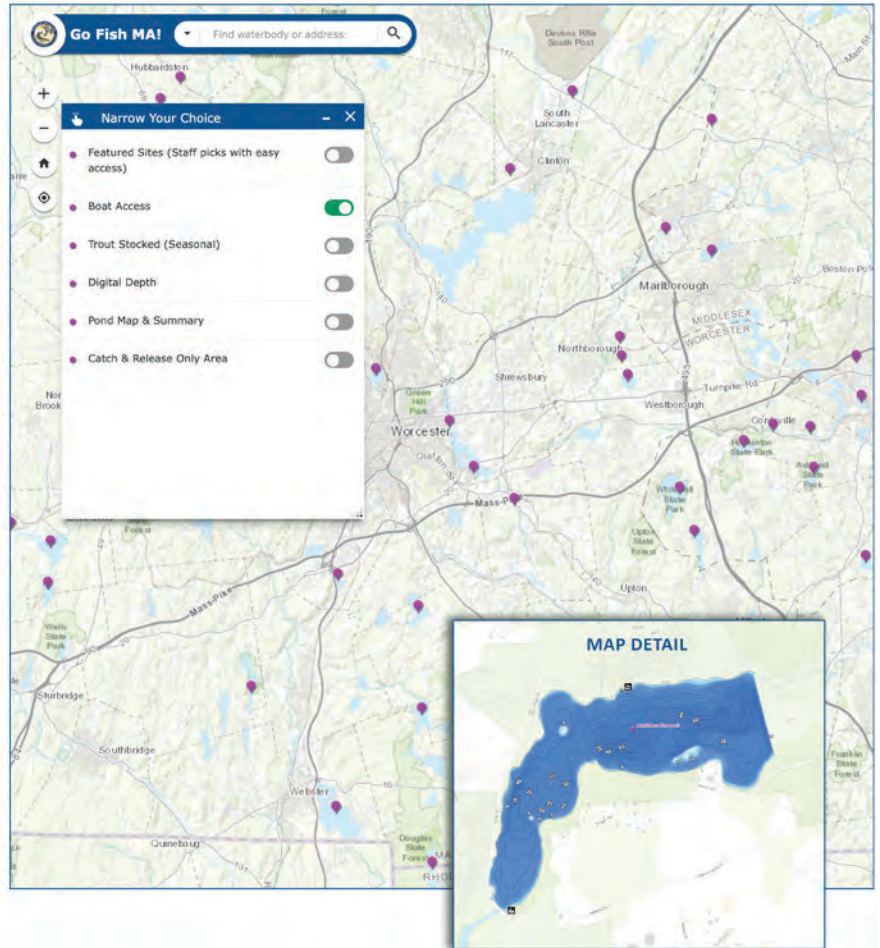


## GO FISH MA! WITH ONLINE FISHING MAP

Plan your next fishing trip using MassWildlife's online fishing map. Find boat ramps, trout stocked waters, pond and lake summaries, and digital depth information. The fishing map also highlights over 100 featured fishing sites that offer easy access to great fishing in all areas of the state. Once you're at your fishing spot, use your mobile device and the *My Location* feature on the map to see depth information in real time. Go to [mass.gov/go-fish-ma](http://mass.gov/go-fish-ma) to start exploring.

## COLDWATER STREAMS

A Coldwater Fish Resource (CFR) is a waterbody that contains at least one coldwater fish species (i.e., Slimy Sculpin, Longnose Sucker, Lake Chub, American Brook Lamprey, Burbot, Rainbow Smelt, Landlocked Atlantic Salmon, and Lake, Brook, Brown, and Rainbow Trout) that reproduced in that waterbody, or a connected tributary, and use such waters to meet one or more of their life history requirements. Protection of coldwater habitats is critical for maintaining



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the overall health of coldwater fish species, which are ecologically, and in many cases, recreationally important fishes throughout Massachusetts. Once designated as a CFR, waterbodies are then afforded a greater degree of protection from potential human-caused alterations to their health. A map and list of currently designated CFRs can be found at [mass.gov/dfw/cfr](http://mass.gov/dfw/cfr).

## TROUT STOCKING REPORT

Massachusetts anglers can go to [mass.gov/trout](http://mass.gov/trout) to view a list or a map displaying trout stocking information. The report is updated daily during the spring and fall trout stocking seasons. Anglers seeking stocking reports for a particular waterbody or town should use the table to locate information. Type the name of the waterbody or town into the search window to find stocking reports for that location. The table also allows users to sort by town, waterbody,

stocking date, type of fish, or district. The map component of the stocking report allows users to discover new destinations for fishing! Zoom and pan to various regions of the state. The default map view shows trout-stocked waters for the entire state. Zoom to the area you would like to explore and then click on any thumbtack icon to view the dates and types of trout that have been stocked at that location. Stocking locations on streams are accurate, but fish swim, so be sure to investigate other reaches of the streams.

NOTE: The stocking report is subject to change depending on staffing, equipment, and weather conditions.

Don't forget your fishing license — available online at [mass.gov/massfishhunt](http://mass.gov/massfishhunt) at MassWildlife offices, or at license vendors.

**VISIT [MASS.GOV/TROUT](http://MASS.GOV/TROUT) FOR STOCKING LOCATIONS AND DAILY REPORTS**



Photos courtesy: MassWildlife/Freshwater Sportfishing Awards Program



# GENERAL HUNTING REGULATIONS

**Report all violations to the Massachusetts Environmental Police (800) 632-8075.**

**ACCIDENTS:** All hunting-related injuries or deaths must be reported to the Environmental Police and state or local police.

**ARCHERY:** All bows (recurve, long, and compound), except permitted crossbows, used for hunting deer, bear, and turkey must have a draw weight of at least 40 lbs. at 28 inches or at peak draw. Mechanical releases are permitted. Arrows used on deer, bear, or turkey must have well-sharpened steel broadhead blades not less than 7/8 inches in width. Expanding broadheads are legal for deer, bear, and turkey. Archers may hunt deer with a bow and arrow during the shotgun and primitive firearms deer seasons, but must comply with all regulations of those seasons, including blaze orange and stamp requirements. Crossbows may be used only by duly permitted hunters, with certain permanent disabilities. For regulations and an application, visit [www.mass.gov/masswildlife](http://www.mass.gov/masswildlife) or contact MassWildlife at (508) 389-6300.

A firearms license (FID or LTC) is not required for bowhunting.

**BLAZE ORANGE:** 🧡 During the pheasant or quail season on WMAs where pheasant or quail are stocked, all hunters must wear a blaze orange hat. **EXCEPTION:** No orange hat required while hunting waterfowl from a blind or boat or night-hunting for raccoons or opossums. (see page 21, Wildlife Management Area Regulations) During the Youth Deer Hunt Day and the Shotgun Season for deer, all hunters must

wear 500 square inches of blaze orange on chest, back, and head. During these seasons waterfowl hunters on coastal waters and salt marshes must wear 500 square inches of blaze orange (hat and vest) while hunting or in transit to their blind or boat during these periods. The orange may be removed once the waterfowl hunter is in a blind or boat. During the Primitive Firearms Season, all deer hunters must comply with the 500 square inch blaze orange requirement.

**DOGS:** During the shotgun deer season and Youth Deer Hunt Day, dogs may be used for waterfowl hunting only on coastal waters and salt marshes. Hunting dogs may be trained at any time (except during the shotgun season for deer) provided that only pistols or revolvers and blank cartridges are used or possessed. A sporting or hunting license is required to train hunting dogs off-leash on Wildlife Management Areas.

**HARVEST REPORTING** -- Upon harvesting a deer, bear, or turkey, hunters must immediately fill out and attach the paper tag from the permit or license to the carcass. The game must remain intact (other than field dressing), with the harvest tag attached, until it is reported. Hunters who harvest a deer, bear, coyote, fox, or turkey must report or check their game within 48 hours of killing the animal. Hunters may report their harvested game online or bring their game to an official check station. For information on Online Game Reporting, or a list of official check stations visit the Game Check Station page at [mass.gov/dfw/checkstation](http://mass.gov/dfw/checkstation). **All deer harvested during the first week of the shotgun deer season must be brought to an official check station for biological data collection.**

**OPEN AND CLOSED HUNTING SEASONS:** The following species may be taken year round (except during shotgun deer season) by licensed hunters with no daily or seasonal bag limit: English sparrow, flying squirrel, red squirrel, chipmunk, porcupine, skunk, starling, weasel, and woodchuck. During shotgun deer season all game hunting seasons are closed statewide except for deer, bear, coyote, and waterfowl.

**TREE STANDS:** Written permission of the landowner (on either public or private lands) is required to construct or use any tree stand which is fastened to a tree by nails, bolts, wire, or other fasteners that intrude through the bark into the wood of the tree, or that is fastened or erected in any manner and is emplaced for a period exceeding 30 days. This includes hang-on tree stands.

**YOUTH DEER HUNT DAY RESTRICTIONS:** When hunting other game animals on the Youth Deer Hunt Day, (Oct. 1, 2022) additional requirements apply:

- Rifles and handguns are prohibited for hunting any game.
- Dogs may only be used for waterfowl hunting (ducks and geese) on coastal waters and salt marshes.
- All game hunters must wear a minimum of 500 square inches of blaze orange on their chest, back, and head; waterfowl hunters are required to wear blaze orange in transit to and from their blind or boat. 🧡

**WANTON WASTE:** It is unlawful for hunters to intentionally or knowingly leave a wounded or dead game animal without making a reasonable effort to retrieve and use it. Each animal must be retained until processed or used for food, pelt, feathers, or taxidermy. This does not apply to animals unfit for consumption or use—animals and their parts that are damaged, destroyed, decayed, rotting, diseased, or infected.

## OFF-ROAD RECREATIONAL VEHICLES (ATVS, OHVS, DIRT BIKES)

It is illegal to operate any motorized vehicle on any WMA or other property owned or controlled by MassWildlife; and on most state park and state forest lands. It is illegal to operate these vehicles on private lands without the written permission of the landowner. Age restrictions apply; operators under the age of 18 must take a safety course. For more information, contact the Massachusetts Environmental Police at 1-800-632-8075, or go to [mass.gov/ole](http://mass.gov/ole).

A portion of the revenue from vehicle registration is used to support legal riding opportunities; to find a list of State Parks and Forests that allow OHV operation visit: [mass.gov/dcr/orv](http://mass.gov/dcr/orv).

## SPECIAL HUNTS

- **Quabbin, Wachusett, and Sudbury Reservoirs, and Blue Hills Controlled Deer Hunts.** See page 29
- **Paraplegic Hunters Deer Hunt,** see page 29
- **Youth Pheasant Hunt,** see page 24
- **Youth Turkey Hunt,** see page 24
- **Youth Deer Hunt Day,** see page 25
- **Youth Waterfowl Hunt Dates,** see page 25
- **Special Pheasant and Quail Hunt,** see page 34

## FEDERAL WILDLIFE LAW INFORMATION

Please note that fishing and hunting laws on federal parks, refuges, and reservations, such as those controlled by U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service or the National Park Service, may differ from state regulations. Contact the agency in question.



## NON-RESIDENT HUNTERS:

- **NEW:** Must obtain the same stamps and permits as residents. Permit and stamp costs for non-resident hunters may differ from resident hunters. See page 8.
- All non-resident hunters ages 15 and older must possess a valid Non-Resident Hunting License (Big Game or Small Game) to hunt. See page 8. To purchase a license, you

must have successfully completed a Basic Hunter Education course from any jurisdiction in any year or held a hunting/sporting license from any jurisdiction prior to 2007.

- No Massachusetts gun license is needed to possess or transport long guns.
- Should keep firearms unloaded and locked in a case while traveling into or through Massachusetts.

- May not purchase firearms, ammunition, or ammunition components in Massachusetts.
- Must have a temporary non-resident handgun permit (LTC) for hunting with a handgun. Contact MA Firearms Support Services at (617) 660-4780 for permit requirements.
- Non-resident migratory game bird hunters must complete a Massachusetts H.I.P. survey to hunt.

## ASK THE LANDOWNER

Hunting, fishing, and trapping are permitted on private land that is not posted against trespass; however, some towns have bylaws that require written permission. As a courtesy, ask the landowner for permission in advance. If you plan to use wildlife/trail cameras on private land, seek permission for that activity as well. Landowners with posted land may provide (written) permission for individuals to access their property. Written landowner permission is required to trap on posted land. Hunters should check for relevant town bylaws pertaining to any written permission requirements and restrictions on discharge of firearms.

## LANDOWNER LIABILITY

Landowners permitting use of their property for recreation without charging a fee are not liable for injuries to recreational users of the property except in cases of willful, wanton, or reckless conduct by the owner. (MGL Ch. 21 § 17C)



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512 Amherst St., Nashua, NH  
(603) 882-8868

1139 N. Montello St., Brockton, MA  
(508) 588-1018

100 Broadway, Route 1N, Saugus, MA  
(781) 233-3900

1271 Main St., Tewksbury, MA  
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# HUNTING PROHIBITIONS

**Report all violations to the Massachusetts Environmental Police (800) 632-8075.**

- Hunting, trapping or fishing for any birds, mammals, fish, reptiles, or amphibians not listed within this Guide or in the Massachusetts Migratory Game Bird Regulations
- Airbows, arrow guns or any firearms or other devices which project or propel an arrow, dart or bolt by gunpowder, compressed air, or by any other means except by the flexing and release of a bow string.
- **NEW** – The use of air/pellet guns are prohibited for the purposes of taking/harvesting deer, bear, turkey, crow, and migratory game birds. Air/pellet guns are also prohibited for the purposes of taking/harvesting ANY species on WMAs stocked with pheasant or quail DURING the pheasant/quail season. *(For a list of pheasant and quail stocked WMAs, please see 321 CMR 3.01(1)(n)).* Air/pellet guns may be used for all other species during their respective legal open seasons.
- Poisoned arrows, or explosive tips, including firearms cartridges affixed to the end of arrows in such a way as they discharge upon impact with the target, or bows drawn by mechanical means, except for permitted crossbows.
- Artificial lights for hunting any bird or mammal except raccoon and opossum.
- Baiting migratory game birds, wild turkey, bear, or deer during or within 10 days of the start of their specific hunting seasons. See game species hunting pages for more details.
- Careless or negligent use of firearms.
- Choke traps, leghold traps, or nets for taking any bird or mammal.
- Discharge of any firearm or release of any arrow upon or across any state or hard-surfaced highway, or within 150 feet of any such highway.
- Possession of a loaded firearm, discharge of a firearm, or hunting on the land of another within 500 feet of any dwelling or building in use, unless permitted by the owner or occupant. See page 21 for additional gun laws.
- Electronic calls for hunting migratory game birds, wild turkey, or deer.
- Hunting with a ferret or possessing a non-vaccinated/unneutered ferrets/fitches without a permit.
- Furbearer Contests where participants are awarded prizes for harvesting coyote, bobcat, red fox, gray fox, weasels, mink, skunk, river otter, muskrat, beaver, fisher, raccoon, and opossum.
- Possession of rifles and handguns on WMAs stocked with pheasant or quail during the pheasant and quail season.
- Hunter harassment is illegal.
- Hunting on posted land without permission.
- Hunting on Sunday.
- Importation, transportation, liberation or possession of any live wild vertebrate protected under MGL Ch. 131 without a permit.
- Hunting, target shooting, or possession of a firearm, bow and arrow or other weapon when under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs.
- Loaded shotgun or rifle in or on any motor vehicle, recreational vehicle (including snowmobiles), aircraft or motor boat, except as stated in the Migratory Game Bird Hunting Regulations.
- Machine guns, fully-automatic firearms, any tracer or incendiary ammunition.
- Motor vehicles, off-highway vehicles (including snowmobiles), and/or aircraft for hunting any bird or mammal.
- Possession of any Massachusetts Endangered Species Act-listed and/or wildlife, dead or alive, except by permit.
- During the shotgun deer season, possession of rifles, handguns, or dogs in any woodland or field, or use of same on any game, is prohibited. The use of dogs is lawful for hunting waterfowl on coastal waters.
- Hunting bear, deer, bobcat, or turkey with dogs, or training dogs on those species.
- Power or sailboats for hunting birds except when beached or tied to a blind or for retrieving injured birds.
- Removal of any mammal from walls, or holes in trees, ground, or logs.
- Rifles chambered to take ammunition larger than .22 caliber long rifle, and pistols and revolvers chambered to take ammunition larger than .38 caliber, between the hours of 1/2 hour after sunset and 1/2 hour before sunrise.
- Sale of all species of mammals and birds or parts thereof, except unprocessed heads & hides to a licensed fur buyer or taxidermist, and shinbones & hooves of deer to anyone.
- No species other than deer, coyote, and waterfowl/coot may be hunted with shot larger than #1 birdshot (.16" pellet diameter).
- No possession of a shotgun shell loaded with a slug, sabot, single ball, buckshot (any size), except during the open seasons when deer may be hunted with a shotgun, or on a skeet, trap, or target range between sunrise and sunset.
- Lettered bird shot may only be used for coyote hunting (.17 to .23" pellet diameter) and waterfowl/coot hunting (.17 to .19" pellet diameter); otherwise any lettered bird shot may only be possessed on a skeet, trap, or target range between sunrise and sunset. See migratory game bird and coyote hunting pages (40–42), for details.
- Swivel or pivot guns for hunting any bird.
- Taking nests, destroying, or disturbing eggs or nests of birds.
- Target shooting on Sunday except on one's own property or on a recognized shooting range.
- Traps for taking birds except under permit. All traps except cage or box traps and common mouse or rat traps are unlawful for the taking of fur-bearing mammals.
- Vandalism or damage to property or livestock.

**PENALTIES:** License revoked for one year in addition to other penalties; fines of up to \$1,000, restitutions, and/or 1 year in jail. Careless and negligent use of firearms; fines of up to \$500 and/or 6 months imprisonment and loss of license for 5 years.



## MASSACHUSETTS GUN LAWS

**POSSESSION:** For hunting, resident citizens ages 15 and over must have a Firearms Identification Card (FID) to possess a low-capacity rifle or shotgun. A License To Carry (LTC) (age 21 and over) is needed to possess large capacity rifles and shotguns and all handguns. These gun licenses are issued by local Police Departments. Nonresidents with a valid Massachusetts nonresident hunting license do not need an LTC or FID to possess or carry a rifle or shotgun, but must carry their firearms unloaded and in a case while traveling in their vehicles. Non-residents may not purchase guns or ammunition in Massachusetts. To obtain a temporary License to Carry (for handguns), contact the CHSB (Criminal History Systems Board), Firearms Support Services (see below). No firearms license is needed by bow hunters, nor by minors 12–14 years old hunting with a duly licensed adult, nor for the possession of primitive rifles or primitive shotguns as defined in MGL Ch. 140, Section 121, or their ammunition. However, an LTC or FID is required to purchase all ammunition including black powder and Pyrodex.

**NOTE:** Massachusetts public safety laws define primitive firearms differently from the laws and regulations of MassWildlife.

**TRAVEL:** Rifles, shotguns, and muzzleloaders may not be carried on public ways unless the person is lawfully engaged in hunting. When transported in a motor vehicle, rifles, shotguns, and muzzleloaders should be unloaded and in an enclosed case. A large capacity firearm should be carried unloaded and contained within a locked trunk or in a locked case or other secure container.

**STORAGE:** State law requires that whenever a gun is not under your direct control, it must be kept in a locked container or equipped with a tamper-resistant mechanical lock. Muzzleloaders are exempt from this requirement.

For more gun law information, contact the Massachusetts Firearms Records Bureau, 200 Arlington St., Suite 2200, Chelsea, MA 02150, (617) 660-4780, or [mass.gov/cjis](http://mass.gov/cjis).

### BEAR SPRAY AND SELF-DEFENSE SPRAY

Laws pertaining to self-defense sprays are outlined in M.G.L. c. 140 § 122D. For information about carrying and using self-defense spray as a bear deterrent go to [mass.gov/bears](http://mass.gov/bears) and search for the term "bear spray."

### FOLLOW SAFE GUN HANDLING RULES

- Treat **every** gun as if it were loaded.
- Keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction at **all** times.
- Keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to fire.
- Before shooting, correctly identify your game and know what is behind it.

## WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA REGULATIONS

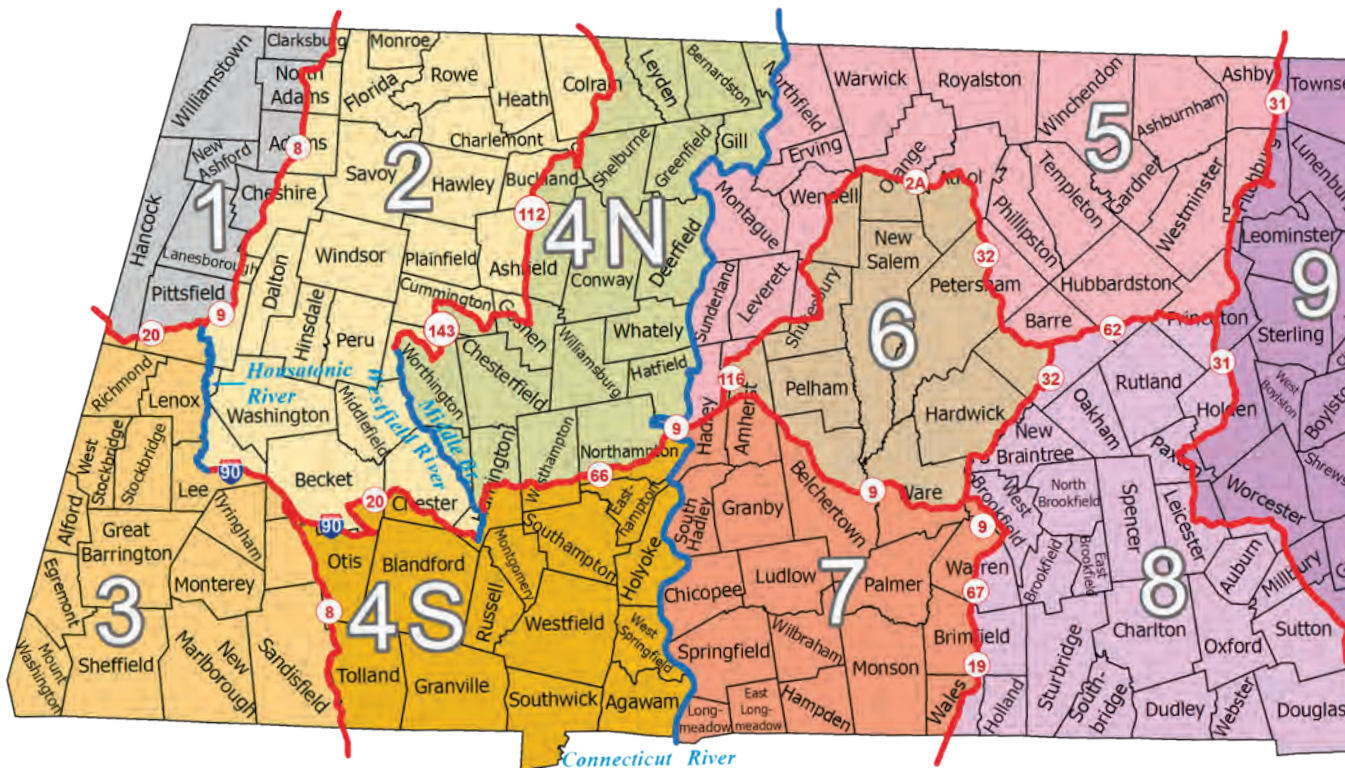
MassWildlife's Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) are open to hunting, fishing, and trapping. Maps are available for many of these properties on the MassWildlife website and at all MassWildlife offices.

- No person shall possess any alcoholic beverage except under permit, or dump or discard any can, bottle, or rubbish.
- No person shall remove vegetation, soil, or stones from any WMA except under permit.
- No person shall use excessive speed in driving a vehicle.
- No person, unless under permit, shall drive or possess any motor vehicle except on roads or trails maintained for public vehicular traffic.
- No person shall deface or tamper with any sign, building, or equipment.
- No person shall build or maintain a fire without written permission from the Director or designee.
- No person shall camp within any WMA without written permission from the Director or designee.
- No person shall engage in target practice without written permission from the Director or designee.
- No person shall use any means other than shotgun or bow and arrow during the pheasant and quail season on areas stocked with pheasant or quail except for hunting raccoons and opossums between 9pm and 3am, or for the shooting of captured fur-bearing mammals by a licensed trapper.
- No person shall hunt before sunrise or after sunset on any WMA where pheasant or quail are stocked during the open season on pheasant or quail, except for the hunting of raccoons and opossums between 9pm and 3am.
- No person shall hunt during the pheasant or quail season on WMAs where pheasant or quail are stocked without wearing a "blaze orange" cap or hat except while night hunting for raccoons or opossums or while hunting waterfowl from within a blind or boat. 🦃
- No person, except under permit, shall dig or disturb any artifact or archaeological remains.
- The Director may make special regulations to handle special situations peculiar to any WMA. Controlled hunts are in effect at certain times on Delaney and Ludlow WMAs. Contact District Manager for details.
- Dogs on WMAs must be leashed. Dogs may be off-leash only when hunting or hunt training with licensed hunters or involved with permitted field trials. Dog feces in WMA parking areas and within 100 feet of the parking area must be picked up by all dog handlers and disposed of off the WMA. Dog feces in other parts of the WMA must be picked up by non-licensed dog handlers and disposed of offsite. Licensed hunters are exempt from this requirement.

Report all violations to the Massachusetts Environmental Police, (800) 632-8075.



# WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ZONES



**ZONE 1:** Northerly by the Vermont border; westerly by the New York border; southerly by a line running along Rt. 20 to the junction with Rt. 7 in Pittsfield, north on Rt. 7 to Rt. 9, and east on Rt. 9 to the junction with Rt. 8, and easterly by a line running from the Vermont border south along Route 8 to Rt. 9 in Pittsfield.

**ZONE 2:** Northerly by the Vermont border; westerly by Zone 01 and 03; southerly by the Massachusetts Turnpike (I-90) from the intersection with the Housatonic River in Lee east to the intersection with Algeria Road in Otis; and easterly by a line running from the Vermont border south along Rt. 112 to Rt. 143 in Worthington, along Rt. 143 west to the intersection with the Middle Branch of the Westfield River (also known as Trout Brook), to the intersection with the East Branch of the Westfield River, south along the East Branch of the Westfield River to Rt. 20 in Huntington, west along Rt. 20 to Bonny Rigg Hill Road in Becket, south on Bonny Rigg Hill Road to the intersection with Algeria Road, then south on Algeria Road to the Massachusetts Turnpike (I-90).

**ZONE 3:** Northerly by Zone 01; westerly by the New York border; southerly by the New York and Connecticut border; and easterly by a line running south along Elm Street from the junction with Rt. 9 in Pittsfield to the Housatonic River, south along the Housatonic River to the junction with the Massachusetts Turnpike (I-90) in Lee, east along I-90 to the junction with Rt. 8 in West Becket, and south along Rt. 8 to the Connecticut border.

**ZONE 4 NORTH:** Northerly by the Vermont border; westerly by Zones 02; southerly by a line running north from the confluence of the Middle Branch and the East Branch of the Westfield River in Huntington along the East Branch of the Westfield River to the intersection with Route 66, along Rt. 66 to the intersection with Rt. 9 in Northampton, easterly along Rt. 9 to the intersection with the Connecticut River at the Northampton/Hadley town line; and easterly by the Connecticut River.

**ZONE 4 SOUTH:** Northerly by Zones 2 and 4N; westerly by Zone 3; southerly by the Connecticut Border; and easterly by the Connecticut River.

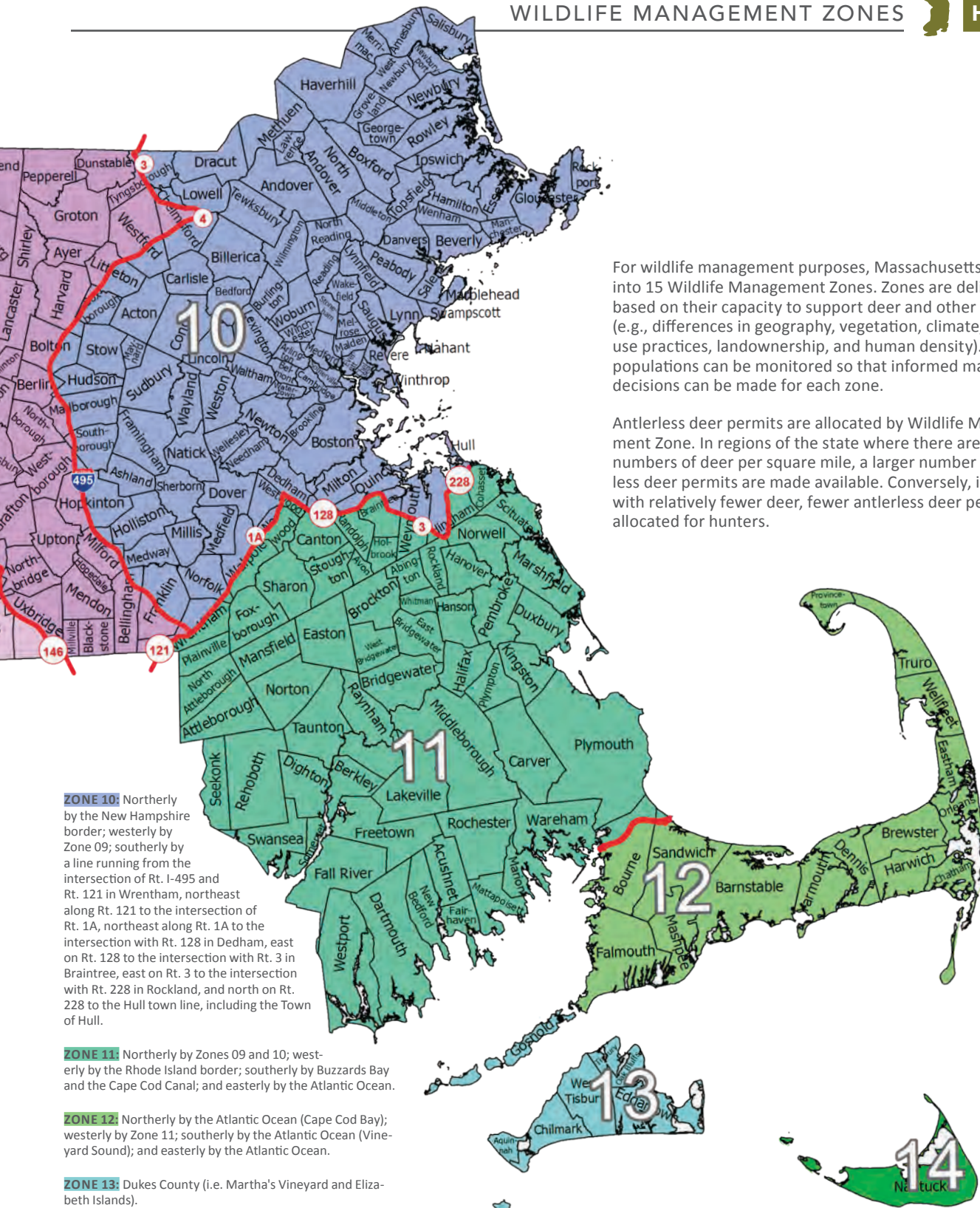
**ZONE 5:** Northerly by the New Hampshire border; westerly by the Connecticut River; southerly by a line running from the intersection of the Connecticut River and Rte. 9 at the Northampton/Hadley line east along Rte. 9 to Rte. 116 in Hadley, north along Rte. 116 to Rte. 63 in North Amherst, east along Rte. 63 and Pine Street to State Street, northeast along State Street and East Leverett Road to Cushman Road, along Cushman Road to Shutesbury Road in East Leverett, east on Shutesbury Road and Leverett Road to Wendell Road in Shutesbury Center, north along Wendell Road to Locks Pond Road, north on Locks Pond Road to Lake View Road, northeast on Lake View Road to Locks Village Road, north along Locks Village Road to Depot Road in Wendell, north on Depot Road to Rte. 2A in Orange, east on Rte. 2A to Rte. 32 in Athol, south on Rte. 32 to Rte. 62 in Barre, and east on Rte. 62 to the intersection with Rte. 31 in Princeton; and easterly by a line running north on Rte. 31 to the New Hampshire border.

**ZONE 6:** Northerly by Zone 05; westerly by Zone 05; southerly by a line running from the intersection of Rt. 9 and Rt. 116 in Hadley east along Rt. 9 to the intersection with Rt. 32 in Ware; and easterly by a line running from the intersection of Rt. 32 and Rt. 62 in Barre, south along Rt. 32 to the intersection with Rt. 9 in Ware.

**ZONE 7:** Northerly by Zones 5 and 6; westerly by Zone 4S; southerly by the Connecticut border; and easterly by a line running from the intersection of Rt. 9 and Rt. 32 in Ware east along Rt. 9 to the intersection with Rt. 67, southwest along Rt. 67 to the intersection with Rt. 19 in Warren, and south along Rt. 19 to the Connecticut border.

**ZONE 8:** Northerly by Zone 05; westerly by Zones 06 and 07; southerly by the Connecticut and Rhode Island borders; and easterly by a line running from the intersection of Rt. 62 and Rt. 31 in Princeton south on Rt. 31 to Rt. 56 in Paxton, south on Rt. 56 to Rt. 9 in Leicester, east on Rt. 9 to Cambridge Street in Worcester, east on Cambridge Street to Rt. 146, and southeast on Rt. 146 to the Rhode Island border.

**ZONE 9:** Northerly by the New Hampshire border; westerly by Zones 5 and 8; southerly by the Rhode Island border; and easterly by a line running from the New Hampshire border southeast on Rt. 3 to the intersection with Rt. I-495 in Chelmsford, south on Rt. I-495 to the intersection with Rt. 121 in Wrentham, and southwest on Rt. 121 to the Rhode Island border.



For wildlife management purposes, Massachusetts is broken into 15 Wildlife Management Zones. Zones are delineated based on their capacity to support deer and other wildlife (e.g., differences in geography, vegetation, climate, soil, land use practices, landownership, and human density). Wildlife populations can be monitored so that informed management decisions can be made for each zone.

Antlerless deer permits are allocated by Wildlife Management Zone. In regions of the state where there are high numbers of deer per square mile, a larger number of antlerless deer permits are made available. Conversely, in regions with relatively fewer deer, fewer antlerless deer permits are allocated for hunters.



# YOUTH HUNTERS

## YOUTH HUNTING REQUIREMENTS

No one under the age of 12 may hunt in Massachusetts.

## LICENSES, STAMPS, PERMITS

### Youth Ages 12–14:

Do not need a license or stamps or firearms license to hunt.

May hunt only when accompanied by a licensed adult hunter (18 or older)

Only one youth per adult. The adult and the youth share one firearm/bow, a single bag limit and any applicable permits/tags.

The licensed adult must have:

- A valid Massachusetts hunting or sporting license
- Any required state or federal stamps or permits
- Firearms license if a firearm is being used (issued by local police department).
- All other hunting laws apply.

### Youth Ages 15–17:

Massachusetts youths must have a minor hunting license; non-resident youths must have a non-resident big game or small

game license. All licensed minors must possess required permits and stamps.

- If the youth does not have a government-issued Basic Hunter Education certificate he or she must be accompanied by a person 18 years of age or older.
- If the youth has a government-issued Basic Hunter Education certificate from any jurisdiction he or she may legally hunt without adult supervision and must carry their Basic Hunter Education certificate while hunting.
- If hunting with a shotgun or rifle Massachusetts youth must follow Massachusetts Firearms license laws and will need to obtain a Firearms Identification Card (FID). An FID is issued by local police departments.
- All other hunting laws apply.

See additional requirements for Youth Turkey, Pheasant, Deer and Waterfowl Hunts.

## PURCHASING A MINOR HUNTING LICENSE

A minor hunting license may be purchased online or in-person from available license vendors. A parent/legal guardian of a 15–17 year old must provide consent and state either that the minor will be accompanied by an adult while hunting or the minor has a government-approved certificate from a Basic Hunter Education Course from any jurisdiction.

Online purchase process:

- Visit [mass.gov/hunting-info-for-minors](http://mass.gov/hunting-info-for-minors) for more information on minor licensing online.

In-person purchase: Provide a consent letter to the license vendor that states the minor will be accompanied by an adult while hunting or that the minor has a government-approved certificate from a Basic Hunter Education Course from any jurisdiction. A consent form for license vendors is available at [mass.gov/minorlicense](http://mass.gov/minorlicense). Minors may need to obtain a Firearms Identification (FID) card to hunt with a gun. (see Gun Laws on page 21)

## YOUTH HUNT DAYS AND PROGRAMS

**Special hunt days and programs for youth hunters aged 12–17 years old.**

### Hunter Education

Youths can take the Basic Hunter Education course, with parent or guardian permission. (Recommended for anyone ages 12 and older.) The Basic Hunter Education course is a multi-session course offered year round in locations throughout the state. For more details, visit the Basic Hunter Education Course schedule online or call the Hunter Education office at (508) 389-7820. To prepare for a Basic Hunter Education course, students have access to a free, online study guide at [www.huntercourse.com/usa/massachusetts](http://www.huntercourse.com/usa/massachusetts).



Photo © Shannon Dowd

### Youth Pheasant Hunt Program

For Hunter Education graduates 12–17 years of age and conducted by sporting clubs. Includes a seminar with instruction on firearms safety in the field, hunting ethics, regulations, game preparation, and supervised shooting practice. The program ends with a pheasant hunt under the guidance of an experienced adult hunter.

**Youth Pheasant Hunt dates:** Sept. 3, 10, 17, 24, and Oct. 1, 8, 2022.

**Requirements:** Youths 12–17 must complete a basic hunter education course and a youth pheasant hunting workshop at a participating sporting club. Check Mass-Wildlife website at [mass.gov/dfw/yaph](http://mass.gov/dfw/yaph) or call (508) 389-6305.

### Youth Turkey Hunt Program

For Hunter Education graduates 12–17 years of age and conducted by sporting clubs with the support of the National Wild Turkey Federation. Includes a seminar with instruction on firearms safety in the field, hunting ethics, regulations, game preparation and supervised shooting practice. The program ends with a turkey hunt under the guidance of an experienced adult hunter.

**Youth Turkey Hunt Day:** April 23, 2022

**Youth Turkey Hunt Day Hunting Hours:** 1/2 hour before sunrise to 5:00pm.

#### Requirements:

(Youth ages 12–14) Youth Turkey Hunt Permit.

Youth Turkey Permits for hunters ages 12–14 are valid for the youth day and the regular spring and fall turkey seasons.

(Youth ages 15–17): Minor Hunting license, regular Turkey Permit and tags, Youth Turkey Hunt Eligibility.

To be eligible for the youth turkey hunt day, youth hunters (12–17 years old) must complete 1) a basic hunter education course and 2) a youth turkey hunting seminar. Upon completion the youth can obtain the required permit or eligibility through MassFishHunt. For details visit [mass.gov/dfw/yath](http://mass.gov/dfw/yath).

### Youth Deer Hunt Day

**Youth Deer Hunt Day date:** Oct. 1, 2022

#### Requirements: Youth Deer Permit

Permits are free and available online in August at MassFishHunt ([mass.gov/mass-fishhunt](http://mass.gov/mass-fishhunt)), at MassWildlife offices, and other license vendors. Youth Deer Hunt Permit and tag is valid only for the Youth Deer Hunt Day.

**Hunting Implements:** Shotgun, muzzleloader, or bow and arrow may be used.

All other hunting laws apply.

**Bag Limit:** One antlered deer statewide OR one antlerless deer in the Wildlife Management Zone(s) specified on the Permit.

### Youth Waterfowl Hunt Days:

The two Youth Waterfowl Hunt days are not available until mid-May when they will be posted on the MassWildlife website.

#### Requirements:

All Youth Hunt Day hunters must be accompanied by a licensed adult hunter (18 or older).

Licensed adult must have a valid MA Waterfowl stamp and may not hunt.

Licensed adult may carry firearm only when unloaded and cased.

All other migratory game bird regulations and bag limits apply.

## LICENSE/STAMP REQUIREMENTS FOR RESIDENT\* YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTERS

	MINOR HUNTING LICENSE	STATE WATERFOWL STAMP	FEDERAL DUCK STAMP
Youths age 12-14			
Youths age 15	X	X	
Youths age 16-17	X	X	X

\* If a non-resident, the youth hunter must possess either a non-resident small game or non-resident big game license, a state waterfowl stamp, and a federal duck stamp.

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# DEER HUNTING

## 2022 HUNTING SEASON DATES

**Youth Deer Hunt Day:** Oct. 1, 2022

### Archery Season:

Zones 10–14: Oct. 3 – Nov. 26, 2022

Zones 1–9: Oct. 17 – Nov. 26, 2022

**Paraleptic Hunt:** Nov. 3 – 5, 2022

**Shotgun Season:** Nov. 28 – Dec. 10, 2022

**Primitive Firearms Season:**  
Dec. 12 – Dec. 31, 2022

All dates inclusive. Hunting is prohibited on Sundays. See Wildlife Management Zone map on pages 22–23.

## HUNTING HOURS

Hunting hours begin 1/2 hour before sunrise and end 1/2 hour after sunset. (Except on WMAs stocked with pheasant or quail during the pheasant or quail season, hunting hours are sunrise to sunset.)

## REQUIRED LICENSES AND PERMITS AND STAMPS

To hunt white-tailed deer in Massachusetts you must have the appropriate license, permits, and stamps which you can buy or apply for through MassFishHunt, [mass.gov/massfishhunt](http://mass.gov/massfishhunt), or a license vendor.

### MASSACHUSETTS RESIDENTS:

- Hunting or Sporting License (Includes 2 antlered deer tags valid statewide)
- Archery Stamp to hunt the Archery Season
- Primitive Firearms Stamp to hunt the Primitive Firearms Season
- No stamp required for the Shotgun Season
- Antlerless Deer Permit – Required for hunting any deer without antlers or antlers less than 3 inches in length. (See Antlerless Deer Permit Information on page 28 for the application process)

### NON-RESIDENTS:

- Non-Resident Big Game Hunting License (Includes 2 antlered deer tags, valid statewide)
- Archery Stamp to hunt the Archery Season
- Primitive Firearms Stamp to hunt the Primitive Firearms Season
- No stamp required for the Shotgun Season
- Antlerless Deer Permit – Required for hunting any deer without antlers or with antlers less than 3 inches in length. (See Antlerless Deer Permit information on page 28 for the application process)

- 15–17 year old hunters required to have a Resident Minor Hunting license or Non-Resident Big Game License
- 12–14 year old hunters do not need a hunting license but must be accompanied by appropriately licensed adult hunter. See Youth Hunters (pages 24–25) for further requirements.

## BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS

### Bag Limit:

- 2 Antlered deer annually (any deer with at least one antler 3 inches or longer)
- Antlerless deer (any deer without antlers or antlers less than 3 inches in length) Hunters may take as many antlerless deer as they have valid antlerless deer permits for the specified permitted zones. (See page 28 Antlerless Deer Permit Information)
- Youth Deer Hunt Day: 1 deer (antlered or antlerless)

### Possession Limit:

In WMZs 1–12 deer hunters may take and possess up to 2 deer in a day before reporting/checking them. Once those deer are reported, the hunter may resume deer hunting on the same day. (EXAMPLE: A hunter harvests 2 deer in the morning. After reporting the deer online or at a check station, he or she may return to deer hunting that same day.)

In WMZ 13 and 14, deer hunters may take and possess up to 4 deer in a day before reporting/checking them. Once those deer are reported, the hunter may then resume deer hunting on the same day.

## YOUTH DEER HUNT DAY

- Minors (resident and non-resident) must have a Youth Deer Permit (valid only for this day)

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## HUNTING IMPLEMENTS ALLOWED BY SEASON

HUNTING IMPLEMENT	ARCHERY SEASON*	SHOTGUN SEASON	PRIMITIVE FIREARMS SEASON*
Shotgun		X	
Archery	X	X	X
Muzzleloader		X	X

\*stamp required to hunt during these seasons

NOTE: Handguns are not allowed for deer hunting and may not be in your possession while deer hunting.



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## HUNTING IMPLEMENTS

**ARCHERY:** Archery equipment may be used during all deer hunting seasons. All bows, (recurve, long, and compound) except permitted crossbows, must have a draw weight of at least 40 lbs at 28 inches or at peak draw. Crossbows may be used only by hunters with a crossbow permit. Arrows must have well-sharpened steel broadhead blades not less than 7/8 inches in width. Expanding broadheads and mechanical releases are permitted. Poisoned arrows, explosive tips, airbows and bows drawn by mechanical means are prohibited. See page 18 for more archery information.

**SHOTGUN:** No larger than 10 gauge. May only be used during the shotgun deer season. Rifled barrel shotguns are legal.

**PROHIBITED:** Possession or use of rifles and handguns in any woodland or field, or use on any game during the shotgun deer season, including the Youth Deer Hunt Day.

**PRIMITIVE FIREARMS:** Shoulder-fired muzzleloaders .44 caliber to .775 caliber; barrel length 18 inches or more with only one barrel operational. Inline ignition systems are permitted providing the firearm loads from the muzzle. Single projectile only (no buckshot). Sabot rounds, 209 primers, break/hinge-action muzzleloaders, and scopes are permitted. Powder limited to black powder or black powder substitutes. A muzzleloader is considered unloaded when cap or pan powder is removed.

## ANTLERLESS DEER PERMIT INFORMATION

What is an Antlerless Deer? Legally, an antlerless deer is a female deer (doe) or young male (button buck) without antlers or a deer where both antlers are less than 3 inches long measured on a straight line from the center of the front base of the antler burr to the tip. A WMZ-specific antlerless deer permit is required in order to hunt any antlerless deer during any deer season.

**ANTLERED DEER:** Any deer (mostly bucks, but some does will grow antlers) with at least 1 antler 3 inches long measured on a straight line from the center of the front base of the antler burr to the tip. Sporting, hunting, and non-resident big game licenses come with two antlered deer tags that can be used in any WMZ. It is legal to harvest a doe with antlers; it will need to be tagged with an antlered deer tag.

## ANTLERLESS DEER PERMIT PROCESS

Antlerless deer permits are allocated by Wildlife Management Zone. In regions of the state where there are high numbers of deer per square mile, a larger number of antlerless deer permits are made available in those zones. Conversely, in regions with relatively fewer deer, fewer antlerless deer permits by zone are allocated for deer hunters.

An antlerless deer permit (ADP) is required to hunt antlerless deer during any deer season. Antlerless deer permits can only be used in the Wildlife Management Zone specified on the permit. The permit must be in the hunter's possession while deer hunting and it is not transferable to other hunters. Each antlerless deer permit is valid for 1 antlerless deer. A hunter may possess antlerless deer permits for more than one zone (e.g., drawing a Zone 5 with Instant Award and purchasing an additional antlerless deer permit for an undersubscribed zone, such as Zone 14).

Hunters must apply for an antlerless deer permit (ADP) online through the MassFishHunt system or at a license vendor by July 16. Hunters may only apply for one permit in a specific Wildlife Management Zone (see WMZ map on pages 22–23).

**PERMIT SELECTION:** Hunters must return to the MassFishHunt system or to a license vendor during the Instant Award period (Aug. 1 – Dec. 31) and try to draw an ADP in the zone to which they applied. Notice of whether the selection was successful or not will be instant. Selection is random. The odds of drawing a permit remain the same throughout the Instant Award period. Instant Award permit issuance is NOT first come-first-served. The odds of drawing a permit depend on the number of antlerless deer permits issued for a given zone and the number of hunters that applied for that zone.

- **ADP Purchase:** Successful applicants will be assessed a \$10.00 fee and may print the permit immediately after purchase or at a later date.
- **Surplus ADP Sales:** If there are any surplus permits (permits for under-subscribed zones) sale dates for those permits will be announced in August.

## BLAZE ORANGE 🧡

All deer hunters, regardless of the hunting implement in use must wear blaze orange during the following seasons or Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs):

- **Youth Deer Hunt Day:** 500 square inches of blaze orange on the chest, back and head
- **Archery Season:** A blaze orange hat is required when hunting on WMAs stocked with pheasant and/or quail during the pheasant and quail season (see WMA Regulations page 21).
- **Shotgun Deer Season:** 500 square inches of blaze orange on the chest, back, and head.
- **Primitive Firearms Season:** 500 square inches of blaze orange on the chest, back, and head

**NOTE:** If using a blind during a season or on a WMA with a blaze orange requirement, all deer hunters must wear the required amount of orange while in the blind. **Mass-Wildlife recommends that blaze orange be visible on the outside of the blind.**

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## HUNTING METHODS

### Legal:

- Use of non-food related scents, deer antlers or replicas, or grunt tubes are permitted.
- It is legal to drive (attempt to move deer in a coordinated effort) deer while hunting.

### Prohibited:

- Rifles and handguns, electronic calls, dogs, and decoys are prohibited.
- **Baiting:** Any natural or artificial substance, including but not limited to corn, wheat or other grains, hay, silage, apples or other fruits or vegetables, and salt or other chemical compounds of a like food-related nature to attract or entice deer. Baiting is defined as the deliberate placing, depositing, distributing, or scattering of bait so as to constitute for deer a lure, attraction, or enticement to or on any area where hunters are attempting to take them. A baited area is any area where baiting has taken place. Such area shall be considered a baited area for the period from 10 days prior to the opening of the archery season to the day following the close of the primitive firearms season. NOTE: On the Youth Deer Hunt Day, it is prohibited to hunt deer in any area where baiting has occurred up to 10 days prior to the Youth Deer Hunt Day.

## TAGGING, TRANSPORTING, AND REPORTING

- **Tagging the Deer:** Upon killing a deer, hunters must immediately fill out and attach the paper tag from the permit or license on the carcass. The deer must remain intact (other than field dressing), with the harvest tag attached until it is reported.
- **Transportation:** When transporting the deer, some part of the deer must be visible until it has been reported.
- **Reporting:** Deer must be reported online through MassFishHunt or at an official game check station within 48 hours of harvest. If reporting online, a confirmation number will be issued. The number must be written on the harvest tag and attached to the carcass.

**EXCEPTION:** During the first week of the shotgun season, ALL harvested deer must be taken to an official check station for biological data collection.

- Once reported, harvest tag with confirmation number or the metal seal from the official game check station must remain attached to the carcass until prepared for food, taxidermy or other uses.
- **Prohibited:** Importing certain parts of deer from other states and provinces where Chronic Wasting Disease has been detected. See the Chronic Wasting Disease information box.

## SPECIAL SEASONS AND HUNTS

**Youth Deer Hunt Day:** See page 25.

**Paralegic Hunters Deer Hunt:** There is a special deer hunt for hunters with paraplegia Nov. 3 – 5, 2022. Contact MassWildlife Field Headquarters (508) 389-6300 for more information.

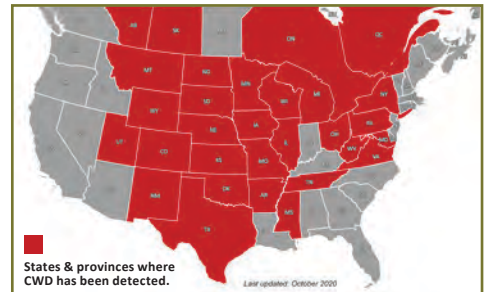
**DCR Controlled Deer Hunts:** Visit the Department of Conservation and Recreation's website at [mass.gov/dcr](http://mass.gov/dcr) for application details on their controlled hunts (Quabbin, Wachusett, and Sudbury Reservoirs, and Blue Hills Reservation: Typically updated in August).

## TRANSPORT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

It is a violation of Federal Law to transport illegally taken fish or wildlife across state lines. For additional information contact the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Office of Law Enforcement, (617) 889-6616.

## CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE

**Hunting Deer, Moose, Elk, or other cervids (wild or captive) outside of Massachusetts?** It is illegal to import whole carcasses or high-risk parts of any member of the Cervidae family (wild or captive) including, but not limited to: white-tailed deer, mule deer, red deer, fallow deer, moose, caribou, or elk from any state, Canadian province, or other country where Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) has been detected. **skull caps, hides without the head,**



CWD-positive jurisdictions (as of October 2021) include:

**U.S. States:**

- Arkansas
- Colorado
- Illinois
- Iowa
- Kansas
- Maryland
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Mississippi

- Missouri
- Montana
- Nebraska
- New Mexico
- New York
- North Dakota
- Ohio
- Oklahoma
- Pennsylvania
- South Dakota
- Tennessee
- Texas
- Utah
- Virginia
- West Virginia
- Wisconsin
- Wyoming

### Canada:

- Alberta
- Ontario
- Quebec
- Saskatchewan

**Other Countries:**

- Finland
- Norway
- South Korea
- Sweden

NEW CWD-POSITIVE JURISDICTIONS may be added following the publication of this document. It is the responsibility of the hunter to know the current CWD status of any jurisdiction that they plan to hunt in (updated list and information can be found on our website at [www.mass.gov/dfw/cwd](http://www.mass.gov/dfw/cwd) or at [www.cwd-info.org](http://www.cwd-info.org)) and any laws and regulations for carcass transport in each state or province traveled.



# BLACK BEAR HUNTING

## 2022 HUNTING SEASON DATES

First season: Sept. 6 – Sept. 24, 2022

Second season: Nov. 7 – Nov. 26, 2022

Shotgun season: Nov. 28 – Dec. 10, 2022

All dates inclusive.

Hunting is prohibited on Sundays.

## HUNTING HOURS

Hunting hours begin 1/2 hour before sunrise and end 1/2 hour after sunset. (Except on WMAs stocked with pheasant or quail during the pheasant or quail season, hunting hours are sunrise to sunset.)

## REQUIRED LICENSES AND PERMITS

You must have a license and permit to hunt bear which you can buy through MassFish-Hunt, [mass.gov/massfishhunt](https://mass.gov/massfishhunt).

### MASSACHUSETTS RESIDENTS:

- Hunting or sporting license
- Bear permit

### NON-RESIDENTS:

- Big game license
- Bear permit

## BAG LIMIT

1 bear per calendar year

## HUNTING ZONES

All Wildlife Management Zones statewide.

## HUNTING IMPLEMENTS (see table above)

**Rifle:** Rifles .23 caliber or larger are allowed only during the first and second\* bear seasons.

**Revolver:** Legal for use only during the first bear season. Restricted to a .357 caliber Magnum revolver with .357 Magnum cartridges only, or a revolver .40 caliber or larger.

## HUNTING IMPLEMENTS ALLOWED BY SEASON

HUNTING IMPLEMENT	FIRST SEASON	SECOND SEASON	SHOTGUN SEASON
Rifle*	X	X	
Revolver*	X		
Muzzleloader*	X	X	X
Archery	X	X	X
Shotgun			X

\* Except on WMAs stocked with pheasant or quail during the pheasant or quail season.



Photo by Bill Byrne/MassWildlife

**Muzzleloader:** Allowed during all 3 bear seasons. Must be .44 – .755 caliber, fired from the shoulder using a single projectile.

**Archery Equipment:** Allowed during all 3 seasons. All bows must have a draw weight of at least 40 lbs at 28 inches or at peak draw. Arrows must have well-sharpened steel broadhead blades not less than 7/8 inches in width. Expanding broadheads and mechanical releases are legal. You may use a crossbow only if you have a crossbow permit. Airbows, poisoned arrows, explosive tips, and bows drawn by mechanical means are prohibited. (see Archery on page 18)

**Shotgun:** Allowed only during the shotgun bear/deer season and includes shotguns with rifled bores. Must be no larger than 10 gauge. Slugs only. **Buckshot is prohibited.**

## BLAZE ORANGE

- First Season: None

- Second Season: A blaze orange hat is required on WMAs stocked with pheasant or quail during the pheasant or quail season.
- Shotgun Season: You must wear 500 square inches of blaze orange on your head, chest, and back.

## HUNTING METHODS

The use of dogs and bait is prohibited. Bait includes the use of lure, scents, or any other substance used for a bear attractant.

## TAGGING, TRANSPORTING, AND REPORTING

Upon killing a bear, hunters must immediately fill out and attach to the carcass the harvest tag found on the bear permit. The bear must remain intact (other than field dressing), with the harvest tag attached,



until it is reported and prepared for food, taxidermy, or other purpose. Hunters must report their bear either online or at a check station within 48 hours of harvest. If reporting online, a confirmation number will be issued and must be written on the harvest tag, if reporting at a check station a metal seal will be attached to the carcass. Either the seal or the harvest tag must be attached to the bear until it is processed. When transporting the bear, some portion of the carcass must remain visible until it has been reported.

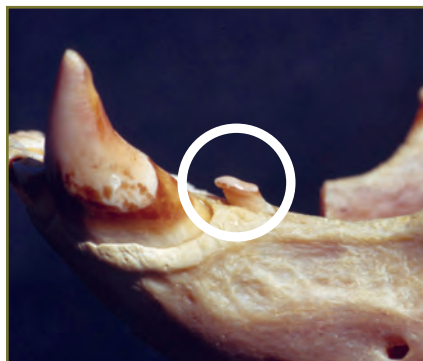
## HOW OLD IS THAT BEAR?

MassWildlife collects bear teeth to determine the age demographics of the harvest. Contribute to the scientific management of the Massachusetts Black Bear population! Follow the instructions below and you will receive a letter in June or July with the age of your harvested bear.

1. Remove either the left or right premolar (see photo), the small tooth just behind the canine. Using a small sharp knife, or a sharp 1/4 inch wood chisel, slide the blade down the side of the tooth and cut or separate the gum tissue where it sticks to the tooth. Using small needle-

nose pliers or the pliers on your multi-tool, wiggle the tooth slightly until you can pull it out of the jawbone and the gum. The root is the most important part; go slow and be careful not to break this very small tooth.

2. Put the tooth in a small envelope or bag and mark it with your name, mailing address, customer ID number, and confirmation number (or seal number) of your bear. Enclose everything in a mailing envelope and send it to: Black Bear Aging, MassWildlife, 1 Rabbit Hill Rd., Westborough, MA 01581.



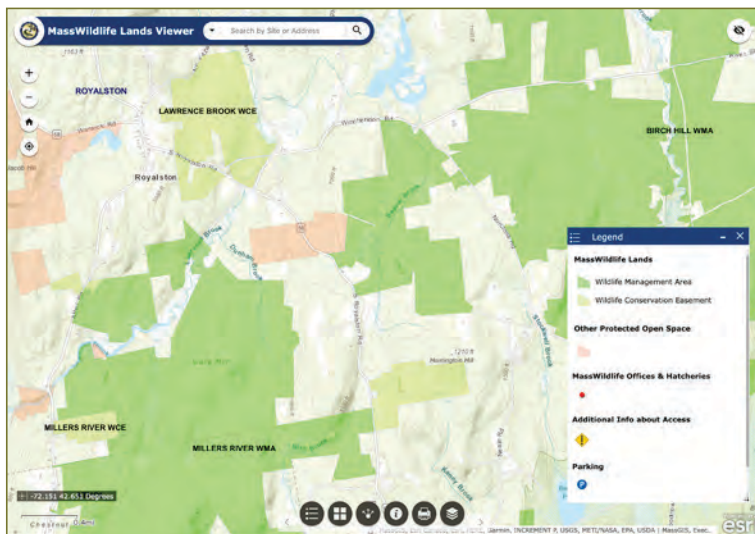
## ANIMALS TAGGED FOR RESEARCH

Some bear, deer, coyotes, and other animals may have ear tags or radio collars. It is legal to harvest them. If you find or take one of these animals, contact MassWildlife's Field Headquarters (508) 389-6300 immediately. You will be asked for information that will help biologists determine the source and status of these animals AND you will be asked to return the equipment to MassWildlife. Thank you for your cooperation.

## LOOKING FOR PLACES TO HUNT, FISH, OR TRAP?

Wildlife lands, open to hunting, fishing, and trapping, can be viewed using the MassWildlife Lands Viewer, [mass.gov/dfw/wildlife-lands](http://mass.gov/dfw/wildlife-lands). This new tool shows land owned jointly by the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and MassWildlife throughout the Commonwealth. Maps can be customized and printed using the Viewer. Users can search for land by town or by property name.

These lands are protected primarily to provide habitat for wildlife and to give people a place to relax and explore the great outdoors. For the most part, wildlife lands are open to hunting, fishing, trapping, birdwatching, and other wildlife related recreation. Users can explore unmarked paths or woods roads with simple, unpaved parking lots. Many of these properties are actively managed through mowing, cutting, prescribed burns, or other activities that benefit wildlife. Regulations govern the activities allowed on these lands and focus on passive recreation. Note that these maps are provided for recreational use and show approximate rather than legal descriptions of property boundaries.





# WILD TURKEY HUNTING

## 2022 HUNTING SEASON DATES

### Youth Turkey Hunt Day (see page 24):

Zones 1–13: Apr. 23, 2022

### Spring season:

Zones 1–13: Apr. 25 – May 21, 2022

### Fall season:

Zones 10–13: Oct. 3 – Nov. 26, 2022

Zones 1–9: Oct. 17 – Nov. 26, 2022

All dates are inclusive.

Hunting is prohibited on Sundays.

See Wildlife Management Zone map on pages 22–23.

## HUNTING HOURS

Youth Day: Hunting hours begin 1/2 hour before sunrise and end at 5:00 P.M.

Spring turkey season: Hunting hours begin 1/2 hour before sunrise and end at noon

Fall turkey season: Hunting hours begin 1/2 hour before sunrise and end 1/2 hour after sunset. When hunting turkeys on WMAs stocked with pheasant or quail **during** the pheasant or quail season, hunting hours are sunrise to sunset.

## REQUIRED LICENSES, PERMITS, AND SAFETY STICKER

A license and permit is required to hunt turkey which you can buy through Mass-FishHunt, [mass.gov/massfishhunt](https://mass.gov/massfishhunt).

### MASSACHUSETTS RESIDENTS

- Hunting or sporting license
- Turkey permit
- Safety sticker\*

### NON-RESIDENTS:

- Big game license
- Turkey permit
- Safety sticker\*

**\*Safety Sticker:** Turkey hunters using a shotgun or muzzleloader must place an official safety sticker on their gun. The sticker must be visible when hunter is sighting down the barrel. Contact a MassWildlife office for a free sticker.



Photo by Troy Gipps/MassWildlife

## BAG LIMITS

Annual bag limit of 3 turkeys per calendar year as described below:

Spring season: 2 bearded birds; Two birds may be harvested on the same day.

Fall season: 1 turkey of either sex.

## HUNTING IMPLEMENTS

### Spring season:

**Shotgun:** No larger than 10 gauge. No larger than #4 size shot.

**Muzzleloader:** No larger than .775 caliber smoothbore muzzleloading shotgun. No larger than #4 shot.

**Archery Equipment:** All bows must have a draw weight of at least 40 lbs at 28 inches or at peak draw. Arrows must have a well-sharpened steel broadhead blades not less than 7/8 inches in width. Expanding broadheads and mechanical releases are legal. Crossbows may be used only by hunters with a crossbow permit. Airbows are prohibited. (see Archery on page 18)

### Fall season:

In WMZs 1–13, hunters can use shotguns, muzzleloading shotguns, and archery equipment as described above from Oct. 17 – Oct. 29.

During certain periods of the fall season **ONLY ARCHERY EQUIPMENT** is permitted (no shotguns or muzzleloading shotguns). See Fall Season Hunting Implement table below.

## BLAZE ORANGE

Spring turkey season: Blaze orange is not required.

Fall turkey season: A blaze orange cap is required when hunting on a WMA stocked with pheasants or quail during the pheasant or quail season.

## HUNTING METHODS

Use of electronic calls, dogs, bait and driving (attempt to move in a coordinated effort) turkeys are prohibited.

A licensed turkey hunter may call turkeys for another hunter. The caller cannot carry a firearm or archery equipment if he or she has taken a season limit of turkeys. Caller must have a valid license and turkey permit in possession even if tags are no longer attached.

## FALL SEASON HUNTING IMPLEMENTS

ZONE	OCT. 3 – OCT. 15	OCT. 17 – OCT. 29	OCT. 31 – NOV. 26
WMZ 1–9	No Fall turkey hunting	Shotgun, muzzleloading shotgun, and archery	Archery only
WMZ 10–13	Archery only	Shotgun, muzzleloading shotgun, and archery	Archery only



## TAGGING, TRANSPORTING, AND REPORTING

- You must report your game harvest within 48 hours.
- Fill out and attached the paper tag from your permit on the carcass immediately after harvesting a turkey.
- The game must remain intact (other than field dressing), with the tag attached, until reported and prepared for food or taxidermy purposes.
- Report your harvest at an official check station or online.
- If you report online, write your confirmation number on the harvest tag attached to the carcass.

## IDENTIFYING HEN (FEMALE) AND TOM (MALE) WILD TURKEYS DURING THE SPRING HUNTING SEASON

A small proportion of female turkeys may have a beard and can be legally harvested. However, their loss reduces the reproductive potential of the turkey population. To avoid misidentification, use the following features below to accurately determine the turkey's sex.



TOM	FEATURE	HEN
Red, blue, or white colors with snood (fleshy mass over the beak)	<b>Head</b>	Blue-gray, no snood
Dark, brown-black	<b>Body</b>	Light, rusty brown
Long bristle/filament-like beard	<b>Beard</b>	Usually no beard
Present	<b>Spurs</b>	Usually absent
Gobble, drum	<b>Calls</b>	Yelps, clucks, cuts
Strut with tail fanned and wings dropped	<b>Strut</b>	Do not strut or fan tail
Larger than hen	<b>Size</b>	1/2 to 2/3 size of tom

Photos by Bill Byrne/MassWildlife

## TURKEY HUNTING SAFETY TIPS

- Sit or stand still to call turkeys to you. Don't stalk birds!
- Avoid wearing red, white, blue or black where the colors might be seen by other hunters during your hunt.
- Don't hide in a place where your view is obstructed.
- Be completely sure of your target and what is beyond it before you shoot.
- Positively identify male vs. female turkeys. Although bearded hens are legal to hunt during the spring season, their loss reduces the reproductive potential of wild turkeys in your area.
- If another hunter approaches your set-up, call out in a loud, clear voice. Make sure your presence is acknowledged before you move. Never wave to alert another hunter of your presence.
- Never assume that you are alone in the woods — even if you are the only one on the land with permission to hunt.
- Use hen calls. A gobbler call might attract other hunters.
- For further protection, always sit with your back against a tree trunk, big log or a boulder that is wider than your body.
- Avoid unnecessary movement. This alerts turkeys and could attract hunters.
- When carrying harvested birds or decoys, use a blaze orange covering or completely conceal them in a game bag.

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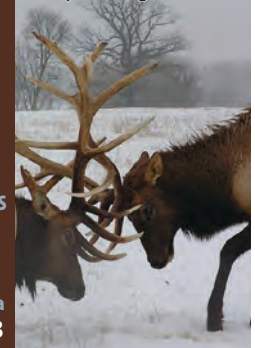
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# PHEASANT/QUAIL HUNTING



Photo © Dean Cerrati

## 2022 HUNTING SEASON DATES

### Pheasant

Youth Pheasant Hunt: Sept. 3, 10, 17, 24, and Oct. 1, 8, 2022.

Oct. 15 – Nov. 26, 2022 (statewide)

### Quail

Zones 11–14: Oct. 15 – Nov. 26, 2022

**NEW** — Hen pheasants can be hunted statewide.

All dates inclusive.

Hunting on Sundays is prohibited. See WMZ map on pages 22–23.

## PHEASANT/QUAIL STOCKED AREAS

Every year, MassWildlife stocks about 40,000 ring-necked pheasants statewide. These birds are stocked on public and private lands open to hunting. For a list of pheasant stocked WMAs and other locations visit, [mass.gov/pheasant](http://mass.gov/pheasant). MassWildlife also stocks about 4,000 bobwhite quail at two locations; Myles Standish State Forest in Plymouth and the Francis Crane WMA in Falmouth.

## HUNTING HOURS

Hunting hours begin at sunrise and end at sunset on Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) stocked with pheasant or quail, otherwise hunting hours begin 1/2 hour before sunrise and end 1/2 hour after sunset.

## REQUIRED LICENSES AND PERMITS

- You must have a license and permit to hunt pheasant and quail which you can buy through MassFishHunt, [mass.gov/massfishhunt](http://mass.gov/massfishhunt).



Photo by Bill Byrne/MassWildlife

- NEW** — Pheasant/Quail Permit: Required by all hunters aged 15 years or older (including falconers) to hunt, take or possess pheasants or bobwhite quail, except for those hunting or possessing pheasants or quail harvested on licensed commercial shooting preserves.

### MASSACHUSETTS RESIDENTS:

- Hunting or sporting license
- Pheasant/Quail Permit

### NON-RESIDENTS:

- Small game or big game license
- Pheasant/Quail Permit

If you hunt on a licensed commercial shooting preserve, you need a resident or non-resident license, or a 1-day commercial shooting preserve license.

## BAG LIMITS

### Pheasant

- 2 per day
- 4 in possession

### Quail

- 4 per day
- 8 in possession

**NEW** — No season limit for pheasant or quail

## HUNTING IMPLEMENTS

**Shotguns (including smoothbore muzzle-loaders):** No larger than #1 birdshot.

**Archery:** Archery equipment is legal. Crossbows may be used only by hunters with a crossbow permit. Poisoned arrows, explosive tips, bows drawn by mechanical means, or any device that propels an arrow, dart, or bolt by gunpowder, compressed air, or by any other means except by the flexing and release of a bowstring are prohibited.

Only shotguns and archery equipment may be used when hunting pheasant or quail on WMAs stocked with pheasant or quail DURING the pheasant or quail season.

## BLAZE ORANGE

When hunting on a pheasant or quail stocked WMA during the pheasant/quail season, a blaze orange cap is required.

## SPECIAL PHEASANT AND QUAIL HUNT

Licensed hunters may submit an application to MassWildlife district offices for a free 1 day permit that allows the private purchase, liberation, and hunting of ring-necked pheasants and/or bobwhite quail on selected WMAs from Jan. 1 – March 31.

WMAs include:

- Frances A. Crane WMA and Erwin Wilder WMA (SE District)
- Bolton Flats WMA and Winnimusset WMA (Central District)
- Martin Burns WMA (NE District)
- Herm Covey WMA (CT Valley District)
- Housatonic Valley WMA (Western District)

Permits are issued on a first-come, first-served basis. Only one party can hunt on each WMA per day. There are no stocking limits, or bag limits.

You will need a separate importation permit from the MassWildlife Boston Office (617) 626-1575 to purchase birds from out of state.

**There are no tagging, transporting or reporting requirements for pheasant or quail.**



# RUFFED GROUSE HUNTING



Photo by Bill Byrne/MassWildlife

## 2022 HUNTING SEASON DATES

Oct. 15 – Nov. 26, 2022

All dates are inclusive.  
Hunting is prohibited on Sundays.

## HUNTING HOURS

Hunting hours begin 1/2 hour before sunrise and end 1/2 hour after sunset. (Except on WMAs stocked with pheasant or quail during the pheasant/quail season hunting when hours are sunrise to sunset.)

## REQUIRED LICENSES AND PERMITS

You must have a license to hunt ruffed grouse which you can buy through Mass-FishHunt, [mass.gov/massfishhunt](http://mass.gov/massfishhunt).

### MASSACHUSETTS RESIDENTS:

- Hunting or sporting license

### NON-RESIDENTS:

- Small game or big game license

## BAG LIMITS

- 3 per day
- 6 in possession
- 15 per season

## HUNTING ZONES

All Wildlife Management Zones statewide.

## HUNTING IMPLEMENTS

Only shotguns and archery equipment may be used when hunting ruffed grouse on WMAs stocked with pheasant or quail DURING the pheasant or quail season.

**Shotguns (including smoothbore muzzle-loaders):** No larger than #1 birdshot.

**Archery:** Archery equipment is legal. Crossbows may be used only by hunters with a crossbow permit. Poisoned arrows, explosive tips, bows drawn by mechanical means, or any device that propels an arrow, dart, or bolt by gunpowder, compressed air, or by any other means except by the flexing and release of a bowstring are prohibited.

## BLAZE ORANGE 🧡

When hunting on a pheasant or quail stocked WMA during the pheasant/quail season, a blaze orange cap is required.

**There are no tagging, transporting or reporting requirements for ruffed grouse.**

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To find out more, visit [www.SNLTMassachusetts.org](http://www.SNLTMassachusetts.org)



## CROW HUNTING

### 2022 HUNTING SEASON DATES

Jan. 1 – April 9, 2022

July 1, 2022 – April 10, 2023

Crow hunting only on Mondays, Fridays, and Saturdays. Crow hunting season may coincide with the Youth Deer Hunt, special restrictions apply, see page 25.

### HUNTING HOURS

Hunting hours begin 1/2 hour before sunrise and end 1/2 hour after sunset. (Except on WMAs stocked with pheasant or quail during the pheasant or quail season, hunting hours are sunrise to sunset.)

### REQUIRED LICENSES AND PERMITS

You must have a license to hunt crows, which you can buy through MassFish-Hunt, [mass.gov/massfishhunt](http://mass.gov/massfishhunt). No permits are required.

#### MASSACHUSETTS RESIDENTS:

- Hunting or sporting license

#### NON-RESIDENTS:

- Small game or big game license

### BAG LIMITS

None

### HUNTING ZONES

All Wildlife Management Zones statewide.



Photo © 2021 Gino Ellison@21

### HUNTING IMPLEMENTS

Rifles and handguns.

**Shotguns (including smoothbore muzzle-loaders):** No larger than #1 birdshot.

**Archery:** All archery equipment is legal. Crossbows may be used only by hunters with a crossbow permit. Poisoned arrows, explosive tips, bows drawn by mechanical means, or any device that propels an arrow, dart, or bolt by gunpowder, compressed air, or by any other means except by the flexing and release of a bowstring are prohibited.

Only shotguns and archery equipment may be used when hunting crow on WMAs stocked with pheasant or quail DURING the pheasant or quail season.

### HUNTING METHODS

Bait, electronic calls, and manual calls are legal.

### BLAZE ORANGE 🧡

When hunting on a pheasant or quail stocked WMA during the pheasant/quail season, a blaze orange cap is required.

There are no tagging, transportation or reporting requirements for crow.

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# MASSWILDLIFE BY THE NUMBERS: FISCAL YEAR 2021

MassWildlife is committed to restore, protect, and manage land and waters for all wildlife to thrive and for people to enjoy. In that spirit, staff carried on fish and wildlife conservation in the fields and forests, lakes, rivers and ponds, hatcheries, and at district and in-home offices. Staff were present in the virtual environment offering on-line programs on outdoor skills and fish and wildlife topics. Public information sessions, Board Meetings and hearings were also held online, with a noticeable and gratifying uptick in public participation.

- **4,550 acres of critical fish and wildlife habitat protected.** MassWildlife currently protects over 222,600 acres of property open to hunting, fishing, watching wildlife, and other nature-based recreation.
- **Over 474,000 trout stocked in the spring of 2021** in 175 lakes and ponds and 231 rivers and streams in 250 cities and towns. In fall 2020, over 64,700 trout were stocked in 98 ponds and lakes, and 6 rivers and streams in 86 communities across the state.
- **75 private landowners given habitat management advice and/or financial assistance.** MassWildlife offered technical advice to landowners for planning and/or financial assistance for habitat management actions that benefit rare or uncommon wildlife on private, protected lands.
- **15th Edition of the Natural Heritage Atlas Released.** Depicting habitat of rare plants and animals protected under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA) and the Wetlands Protection Act (WPA), these maps are primarily used to determine if proposed projects or activities in those areas require review for compliance with the MESA and the WPA.
- **40,000 pheasants released for hunters** on Wildlife Management Areas and other lands open to hunting. Go online for the revised pheasant stocking map launched in 2019 at [mass.gov/pheasant](https://mass.gov/pheasant)
- **Over 2,700 acres of land-based habitat restoration** on MassWildlife lands involving tree clearing, prescribed burns, invasive plant control, and mowing. These habitat practices benefit American woodcock and ruffed grouse and other less common or rare wildlife.
- **55 peregrine falcon chicks banded at 19 sites** across the Commonwealth. The year 2021 marked the 35th year of successful wild peregrine falcon nesting in Massachusetts since their reintroduction.
- **Over 6 million MassWildlife website page views in FY21** – In addition, over 55,000 people follow MassWildlife on Facebook, 96,052 people receive MassWildlife's monthly e-newsletter and 21,000 subscribe to Massachusetts Wildlife magazine. (See page 50)

## NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

MassWildlife prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, age, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, religion, creed, ancestry, national origin, limited English proficiency, disability, veteran's status, or background. If you believe you have been discriminated against in a program or activity or need more information, contact Melixza G. Esenyie, ADA and Diversity Manager, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, 100 Cambridge Street, Boston MA 02114 Melixza. Esenyie2@mass.gov (617) 872-3270.



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# RABBIT AND HARE HUNTING



Photo by Bill Byrne/MassWildlife

## 2022 HUNTING SEASON DATES

### Cottontail Rabbits

Zones 1–12: Jan. 1 – Feb. 28, 2022 and Oct. 15, 2022 – Feb. 28, 2023

Zones 13–14: Jan. 1 – Feb. 28, 2022 and Nov. 15, 2022 – Feb. 28, 2023

### Snowshoe Hare

Zones 1–4: Jan. 1 – Feb. 28, 2022 and Oct. 15, 2022 – Feb. 28, 2023

Zones 5–12: Jan. 1 – Feb. 5, 2022 and Oct. 15, 2022 – Feb. 4, 2023

Zones 13–14: Jan. 1 – Feb. 5, 2022 and Nov. 15, 2022 – Feb. 4, 2023

All dates are inclusive. Hunting is prohibited on Sundays. See Wildlife Management Zone map on pages 22–23.

## HUNTING HOURS

Hunting hours begin 1/2 hour before sunrise and ends at midnight. (Exception: on any WMAs stocked with pheasant or quail during the pheasant or quail season, hunting hours are sunrise to sunset. See WMA Regulations page 21.)

## REQUIRED LICENSES AND PERMITS

You must have a license to hunt rabbit and hare, which you can buy through MassFish-Hunt, [mass.gov/massfishhunt](http://mass.gov/massfishhunt). No permits are required.

### MASSACHUSETTS RESIDENTS:

- Hunting or sporting license

### NON-RESIDENTS:

- Small game license or big game license

## BAG LIMITS

- Cottontail rabbit: 5 per day, 10 in possession, no annual bag limit
- Snowshoe hare: 2 per day, 4 in possession, no annual bag limit

## HUNTING IMPLEMENTS

Only shotguns and archery equipment may be used when hunting cottontail rabbits and snowshoe hare on WMAs stocked with pheasant or quail DURING the pheasant or quail season.

**Shotguns (including smoothbore muzzle-loaders):** No larger than #1 birdshot.

**Archery:** Archery equipment is legal. You must use a device that works by flexing and releasing a bowstring. You may not use poisoned arrows, explosive tips, bows drawn by mechanical means, or any device that propels an arrow, dart, or bolt by gunpowder, compressed air, or any other means. Crossbows may be used only by hunters with a crossbow permit.

**Rifles and handguns (including rifled muzzleloaders):** Rifles and handguns are legal except on WMAs stocked with pheasant or quail during the pheasant or quail season.

## BLAZE ORANGE

When hunting on a pheasant or quail stocked WMA during the pheasant/quail season, a blaze orange cap is required.

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There are no tagging, transportation or reporting requirements for rabbit and hare.



# GRAY SQUIRREL HUNTING

## 2022 HUNTING SEASON DATES

Zones 1–9: Sept. 12, 2022 – Jan. 2, 2023

Zones 10–14: Oct. 15, 2022 – Jan. 2, 2023

See Wildlife Management Zone map on pages 22–23.

All dates are inclusive. Hunting is prohibited on Sundays. Gray squirrel hunting season may coincide with the Youth Deer Hunt Day, when special restrictions apply. (see page 25)

## HUNTING HOURS

Hunting hours begin 1/2 hour before sunrise and end 1/2 hour after sunset. (Exception: on WMAs stocked with pheasant or quail during the pheasant or quail season, hunting hours are sunrise to sunset. See WMA Regulations, page 21.)

## REQUIRED LICENSES

You must have a license to hunt squirrels, which you can buy through MassFishHunt, [mass.gov/massfishhunt](http://mass.gov/massfishhunt).

### MASSACHUSETTS RESIDENTS:

- Hunting or sporting license

### NON-RESIDENTS:

- Small game or big game license

## BAG LIMITS

- 5 per day
- 10 in possession
- No annual bag limit

## HUNTING IMPLEMENTS

Only shotguns and archery equipment may be used when hunting gray squirrel on WMAs stocked with pheasant or quail DURING the pheasant or quail season.

**Shotguns (including muzzleloaders):** No larger than #1 birdshot.

**Archery:** Archery equipment is legal. You must use a device that works by flexing and releasing a bowstring. You may not use poisoned arrows, explosive tips, bows drawn by mechanical means, or any device that propels an arrow, dart, or bolt by gunpowder, compressed air, or any other means. Crossbows may be used only by hunters with a crossbow permit.

**Rifles and handguns (including rifled muzzleloaders):** Lawful to use in Wildlife Management Zones 1–9 except on WMAs stocked with pheasant or quail during the pheasant or quail season.

Use of rifles and handguns is prohibited in Wildlife Management Zones 10–14.

Trapping or netting is prohibited.

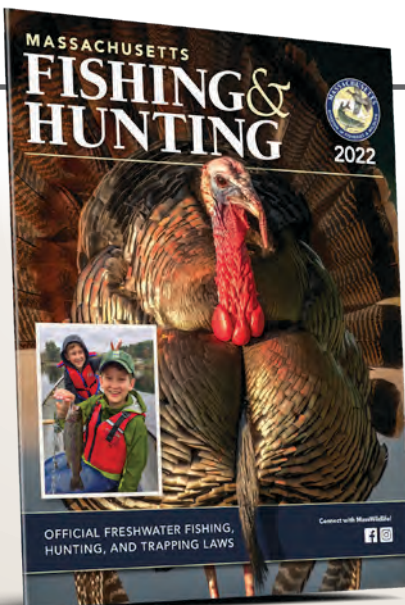


Photo by Bill Byrne/MassWildlife

## BLAZE ORANGE 🧡

When hunting on a pheasant or quail stocked WMA during the pheasant/quail season, a blaze orange cap is required.

**There are no tagging, transportation or reporting requirements for squirrels.**



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# MIGRATORY GAME BIRD HUNTING

**REPORT ALL BANDED BIRDS:** Hunters recovering banded waterfowl are encouraged to report bird band information to [www.reportband.gov](http://www.reportband.gov)

## 2022 HUNTING SEASON DATES

Season dates and bag limits are set annually in the spring and will be posted on the MassWildlife website by mid-May. Printed regulations will be available in August.

### Active Military and Veterans Waterfowl Hunt

Two statewide Veterans Waterfowl Hunt season dates are open for waterfowl hunting by members of the Armed Forces on active duty, including members of the National Guard and Reserve on active duty (other than for training), and veterans. The term “veteran,” is defined, per section 101 of title 38, United States Code, as a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service, and who was discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable. Proof of eligibility is required and must be carried on person while hunting. All regular season waterfowl hunting regulations and bag limits apply.

### Youth Waterfowl Hunt

Runs concurrently with the Active Military and Veterans Waterfowl Hunt (see page 25).

## HUNTING HOURS

Hunting hours begin 1/2 hour before sunrise and end at sunset in most situations. Exceptions: 1) Hunting on WMAs stocked with pheasant or quail during the pheasant or quail season; hunting hours are sunrise to sunset. 2) Early Goose Season: 1/2 half hour before sunrise – 1/2 hour after sunset. See page 51 for sunrise-sunset table.

## REQUIRED LICENSES, STAMPS, & H. I. P.

Licenses, stamps and HIP registration are required and can be obtained through [www.mass.gov/massfishhunt](http://www.mass.gov/massfishhunt).

HIP Registration: Harvest Information Program (HIP) registration required annually by taking the HIP survey.

### Woodcock, snipe, coot, rail hunters

#### MASSACHUSETTS RESIDENTS

- Hunting or sporting license
- Harvest Information Program (HIP) registration through MassFishHunt

#### NON-RESIDENTS

- Big game license OR small game license
- Harvest Information Program (HIP) registration through MassFishHunt

### Waterfowl hunters (ducks, geese, sea ducks)

#### MASSACHUSETTS RESIDENTS

- Hunting or sporting license
- MA Waterfowl resident stamp and HIP (purchase registers you with HIP)
- Federal duck stamp\* (for hunting ducks, geese, or brant) for hunters 16 years and older; \$25, plus federal regulatory processing fee.

#### NON-RESIDENTS

- Big game license or small game license
- MA Waterfowl non-resident stamp and HIP (purchase registers you with HIP)
- Federal duck stamp\* (for hunting ducks, geese, or brant) for hunters 16 years and older; \$25, plus federal regulatory processing fee.

\*The Federal Duck Stamp is available through MassFishHunt or wherever MA hunting licenses are sold. The Federal eDuck Stamp is a temporary stamp expiring 45 days from the date of purchase. Before the eDuck expires, a physical Federal Duck Stamp will be sent to customers via U.S. mail. Upon receipt of the physical Federal Duck Stamp, it must be signed across the face in ink and carried while waterfowl hunting. If a physical Duck Stamp does not arrive after a few weeks, contact Amplex at [duckstamp@amplex.com](mailto:duckstamp@amplex.com) or (800) 852-4897. Physical federal waterfowl stamps

are also available at all National Wildlife Refuges and select post offices.

NOTE: Unlike state licenses and stamps which are valid from January 1 – December 31, the Federal Duck Stamp is valid July 1 – June 30 of the following year. (see page 7)

### YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTERS (12–17 years old) Dates and Requirements (see page 25)

## HUNTING IMPLEMENTS

**Shotgun:** Shotguns no larger than 10 gauge, fired from the shoulder. Shotguns capable of holding more than 3 shells must be plugged with a one piece filler which cannot be removed without disassembling the gun, limiting the gun's total capacity to 3 shells.

**Non-toxic shot:** Required for all waterfowl and coot hunting. No lead shot in possession. Waterfowl and coot hunters must use non-toxic shot up to and including BBB shot while hunting waterfowl. Non-toxic shot is lawful for hunting woodcock, snipe, or rails.

**Archery Equipment:** Expanding broadheads are legal. Crossbows may be used only by hunters with a crossbow permit. Airbows, poisoned arrows, explosive tips, bows drawn by mechanical means are prohibited.

## HUNTING METHODS

**Dogs:** Dogs may be used to hunt migratory game birds. NOTE: During the shotgun seasons for deer (including Youth Deer Hunt Day) dogs can be used for waterfowl and falconry hunting **only** on coastal waters and salt marshes.

**Falconry:** Ducks and coot may be hunted by licensed and permitted falconers from Oct. 2, 2021 – Feb. 3, 2022. No geese.

**Sea ducks:** May only be hunted in coastal waters and rivers and streams seaward of the first upstream bridge.

**Wanton waste:** A reasonable effort is required to retrieve all migratory birds killed or wounded. Wounded waterfowl should be killed immediately, and must be retained by the hunter as part of the daily bag.

## HUNTING PROHIBITIONS

**Baiting:** No baiting (placing corn or any other food to constitute a lure or enticement) or hunting over a baited area. An area is considered baited for 10 days after bait removal. It is not necessary for the hunter to know that the area is baited to be in violation.



**Motorized vehicles & boats:** No hunting migratory game birds from or with the aid of a motor vehicle or other motor driven land conveyance or aircraft. No hunting from or by means of any motor boat or sailboat unless the motor has been completely shut off and/or sails furled and all progress has ceased. A hunter may pick up or retrieve dead or injured birds from a craft under power and may shoot injured birds from powered craft in coastal waters seaward of the first upstream bridge. Exception: Paraplegics may take game birds from a stationary motor vehicle or other land conveyance.

**Driving:** Hunters cannot drive (herd) migratory game birds from or with the aid of a motor vehicle or other motor driven land conveyance or aircraft, or use any kind of motor or sailboat for self or others.

**Electric calls:** NO pre-recorded calls, sounds or any electronic imitations of calls.

**Other prohibited devices:** Rifle, pistol, air gun, swivel gun, punt gun, battery gun, machine gun, trap, snare, net, fish hook, sinkbox, poison, drug, explosive or stupefying substance.

**Live decoys:** No use of live decoys (birds) or any domesticated fowl. These birds

must be removed for 10 consecutive days prior to hunting and confined in an enclosure to reduce the audibility of their calls and conceal them from the sight of migratory game birds.

### BLAZE ORANGE/PFD 🧡

No requirement to wear hunter orange except: 1) An orange hat must be worn while hunting in WMAs stocked with pheasant or quail during the pheasant and quail season; 2) During the Shotgun Deer Season and the Youth Deer Hunt Day waterfowl hunters must wear a blaze orange hat and vest (500 sq. inches) in transit to their blind or boat- it may be removed once in the blind or boat.

**Personal Flotation Device (PFD):** Anyone in a canoe or kayak from Sept. 15 – May 15 **must wear** a life jacket or vest.

**Importation:** No person shall import migratory game birds killed in any other country except Canada unless such birds are dressed and the head and feet removed. One fully feathered wing must remain on each bird transported between port of entry and the hunter's home or preservation facility. No one may import birds belonging to another.

## CONSUMPTION ADVISORY

A Waterfowl Consumption Advisory is in effect for the Housatonic River due to PCBs. For more information call the Mass. Department of Public Health at (617) 624-5757 or visit [mass.gov/dph](http://mass.gov/dph).

## TAGGING, TRANSPORTING, AND REPORTING

No reporting requirement.

No one may possess another hunter's migratory game birds unless the birds are properly tagged. Birds must be tagged with the hunter's signature, address, total number of birds by species, and dates birds were killed.

**Field Dressing:** The head and one fully-feathered wing must remain attached to each migratory game bird while it is transported to the hunter's home, preservation facility or port of entry.

**Shipment:** Any package containing migratory game birds must be marked on the outside with the name and address of the sender and recipient and number of birds, by species, contained inside.



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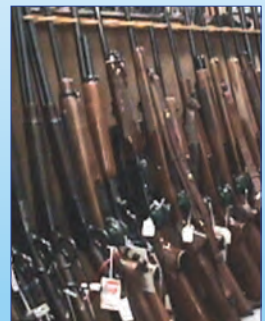
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# COYOTE HUNTING

## 2022 HUNTING SEASON DATES

Jan. 1 – March 8, 2022

Oct. 15, 2022 – Mar. 8, 2023

All dates inclusive. Hunting on Sundays is prohibited. Coyote hunting is open during the deer shotgun season.

## HUNTING HOURS

Hunting hours begin 1/2 hour before sunrise and end at midnight. There are two exceptions:

- Hunting hours start at sunrise and end at sunset on WMAs stocked with pheasant or quail during the pheasant or quail season.
- Hunting hours start 1/2 hour before sunrise and end 1/2 hour after sunset during shotgun deer season.

## REQUIRED LICENSES

You must have a license to hunt coyote, which you can buy through MassFishHunt, [mass.gov/massfishhunt](https://mass.gov/massfishhunt).

### MASSACHUSETTS RESIDENTS:

- Hunting or sporting license

### NON-RESIDENTS:

- Small game or big game license

## BAG LIMITS

- None

## HUNTING ZONES

All Wildlife Management Zones statewide.

## HUNTING IMPLEMENTS

**Shotguns:** Shot sizes up to and including FF. Slugs, single balls, and buckshot may only be used during the shotgun deer season.

**Archery:** Archery equipment is legal. Crossbows may be used only by hunters with a crossbow permit. Poisoned arrows, explosive tips, bows drawn by mechanical means are prohibited.

### Rifles and handguns:

- Daytime hunting: During the period from 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset, there are no restrictions on size or caliber of rifles or handguns.
- Nighttime hunting: During the period from 1/2 hour after sunset to midnight rifles are restricted to those chambered not larger than .22 long rifle and handguns are restricted to those chambered not larger than .38 caliber.
- Prohibited on Wildlife Management Areas stocked with pheasant or quail, during the pheasant and quail seasons.
- Prohibited during the shotgun deer season.

**Muzzleloader:** Smooth bore muzzleloaders: Only shot sizes up to and including FF. Slugs, single balls, and buckshot may only be used during the shotgun deer season. Rifled bore muzzleloaders: no restrictions on caliber size.

## HUNTING METHODS

Decoys and bait are legal.

Electronic and manual calls, and the use of dogs are legal, but prohibited during the shotgun deer season.

Artificial lights are prohibited.

## BLAZE ORANGE 🧡

During the shotgun season for deer, 500 square inches on chest, head and back is required.

When hunting on a pheasant or quail stocked WMA during the pheasant/quail season, a blaze orange cap is required.

## TAGGING, TRANSPORTING, AND REPORTING

You must report your coyote harvest within 48 hours of harvest.

Report at an official check station or online.

If you report your harvest online, write the confirmation number on a tag and attach the tag to the carcass or pelt.

Confirmation numbers must stay attached to the pelt or carcass until that pelt or carcass is prepared for sale, taxidermy, tanning or other use.



Photo by Bill Byrne/MassWildlife



## FOX HUNTING

### 2022 HUNTING SEASON DATES

Jan. 1 – Feb. 28, 2022

Nov. 1, 2022 – Feb. 28, 2023

All dates inclusive. Hunting is prohibited on Sundays.

### HUNTING HOURS

Hunting hours begin 1/2 hour before sunrise and end at midnight. (Except on WMAs stocked with pheasant or quail during the pheasant or quail season, hunting hours are sunrise to sunset.)

### REQUIRED LICENSES

You must have a license to hunt fox, which you can buy through MassFishHunt, [mass.gov/massfishhunt](http://mass.gov/massfishhunt).

#### MASSACHUSETTS RESIDENTS:

- Hunting or sporting license

#### NON-RESIDENTS:

- Small game or big game license

### BAG LIMITS

- None

### HUNTING ZONES

All Wildlife Management Zones statewide.

### HUNTING IMPLEMENTS

**Shotguns:** Only shot size up to #1 birdshot.

**Archery:** Archery equipment is legal. Crossbows may be used only by hunters with a crossbow permit. Poisoned arrows, explosive tips, bows drawn by mechanical means are prohibited.

#### Rifles and handguns:

- Daytime hunting: During the period from 1/2 hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset, there are no restrictions on size or caliber of rifles or handguns.
- Nighttime hunting: During the period from 1/2 hour after sunset to midnight rifles are restricted to those chambered not larger than .22 long rifle and handguns are restricted to those chambered not larger than .38 caliber.
- Rifles or handguns of any kind are prohibited on Wildlife Management Areas stocked with pheasant or quail, during the pheasant and quail seasons.

**Muzzleloaders:** Smooth bore muzzleloaders: Only shot size up to #1 birdshot can be used. Rifled bore muzzleloaders: no restrictions on caliber size.

### HUNTING METHODS

Electronic and manual calls, decoys, bait, and the use of dogs are legal.

Artificial lights are prohibited.

### BLAZE ORANGE

When hunting on a pheasant or quail stocked WMA during the pheasant/quail season, a blaze orange cap is required.

### TAGGING, TRANSPORTING, AND REPORTING

You must report your fox harvest within 48 hours of harvest.

Report at an official check station or online.

If you report your harvest online, write the confirmation number on a tag and attach the tag to the carcass or pelt.

These confirmation numbers must stay attached to the pelt or carcass until that pelt or carcass is prepared for sale, taxidermy, tanning or other use.

## BOBCAT HUNTING

### 2022 HUNTING SEASON DATES

Zones 1–8: Jan. 1 – March 8, 2022 and Dec. 20, 2022 – March 8, 2023

All dates inclusive. Hunting is prohibited on Sundays. See WMZ map on pages 22–23.

### HUNTING HOURS

Hunting hours begin 1/2 hour before sunrise and end 1/2 hour after sunset.

### REQUIRED LICENSES AND PERMITS

You must have a license to hunt bobcat, which you can buy through MassFishHunt, [mass.gov/massfishhunt](http://mass.gov/massfishhunt). No permits are required.

#### MASSACHUSETTS RESIDENTS

- Hunting or sporting license

#### NON-RESIDENTS

- Small game or big game license

### BAG LIMITS

None

### HUNTING IMPLEMENTS

**Shotguns:** Only shot size up to #1 birdshot can be used.

**Archery:** Archery equipment is legal, with no minimum pull. Crossbows may be used only by hunters with a crossbow permit. Poisoned arrows, explosive tips, and bows drawn by mechanical means are prohibited.

**Rifles and handguns:** No restrictions on caliber size for rifles or handguns.

**Muzzleloaders:** Smooth bore muzzleloaders: Only shot size up to #1 birdshot can be used. Rifled bore muzzleloaders: no restrictions on caliber size.

### HUNTING METHODS

Electronic and manual calls, decoys, and bait are legal.

Use of dogs is prohibited.

### BLAZE ORANGE

When hunting on a pheasant or quail stocked WMA during the pheasant/quail season, a blaze orange cap is required.

### TAGGING, TRANSPORTING, AND REPORTING

Bobcat cannot be reported online. You must take your bobcat to an official furbearer check station at MassWildlife facilities only (see page 46), where you will be issued a federally-required seal.

You must report your bobcat harvest within 4 working days of the end of the season.

Seals must remain attached to the pelt/carcass until the pelt/carcass is prepared for sale, taxidermy, tanning or other use.



# RACCOON AND OPOSSUM HUNTING

## 2022 HUNTING SEASON DATES

Jan. 1 – Jan 31, 2022

Oct. 1, 2022 – Jan. 31, 2023

All dates are inclusive. Hunting is prohibited on Sundays. Raccoon and opossum hunting seasons may coincide with the Youth Deer Hunt Day, when special restrictions apply, see page 25.

## HUNTING HOURS

Raccoon and opossum may be hunted 24 hours per day. Exception: WMAs stocked with pheasant or quail during the pheasant or quail season, the hunting hours for raccoon and opossum are from 9:00 P.M. to 3:00 A.M.

## REQUIRED LICENSES

You must have a license to hunt raccoon and opossum, which you can buy through MassFishHunt, [mass.gov/massfishhunt](http://mass.gov/massfishhunt).

### MASSACHUSETTS RESIDENTS:

- Hunting or sporting license

### NON-RESIDENTS:

- Small game or big game license

## BAG LIMITS

Raccoon:

- Individual bag limit — 3 raccoons (Between sunset of one day and sunset of the following day.)
- Group bag limit (2 or more hunters) — 6 raccoons (Between sunset of one day and sunset of the following day.)

Opossum: No bag limit.

## HUNTING ZONES:

All Wildlife Management Zones statewide.

## HUNTING IMPLEMENTS

**Shotguns:** Only shot size up to #1 birdshot.

**Archery:** Archery equipment is legal, with no minimum pull. Crossbows may be used only by hunters with a crossbow permit. Poisoned arrows, explosive tips, and bows drawn by mechanical means are prohibited.

**Rifles and handguns:**

- Daytime hunting: During the period from 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset there are no restrictions on size or caliber of rifles or handguns.

- Nighttime hunting: During the period from 1/2 hour after sunset to 1/2 hour before sunrise, rifles are restricted to those chambered not larger than .22 long rifle and handguns are restricted to those chambered not larger than .38 caliber.
- Prohibited on Wildlife Management Areas stocked with pheasant or quail, during the pheasant and quail seasons except from 9:00 P.M. to 3:00 A.M.

**Muzzleloaders:** Smooth bore muzzleloaders: Only shot size up to #1 birdshot. Rifled bore muzzleloaders: no restrictions on caliber size.

## HUNTING METHODS

Electronic and manual calls and artificial lights are legal. Use of dogs is permitted.

## BLAZE ORANGE 🧡

When hunting on a pheasant or quail stocked WMA during the pheasant/quail season, a blaze orange cap is required.



Photo by Bill Byrne/MassWildlife

**There are no tagging, transportation or reporting requirements for raccoon or opossum.**

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Visit the MOHF website [www.massoutdoorheritage.org](http://www.massoutdoorheritage.org) and see what you have accomplished during the past **20** years. We are grateful for your help. Mother nature is reaching out to you again; she cannot do it alone. In the spirit of your Legacy please consider a tax-deductible donation to help ensure a healthy outdoors in Massachusetts for all living things to be enjoyed for generations to come. It is a beautiful State, we need your help to keep it that way.

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**It is easy to donate:** Write a check made out to the MOHF, Inc. and mail to: Massachusetts Outdoor Heritage Foundation P. O. Box 47, Westboro, MA 01581 OR **go online** and donate via the Massachusetts Outdoor Heritage Foundation website [www.massoutdoorheritage.org](http://www.massoutdoorheritage.org). Be sure to **write 2022A** on the memo line. In addition to the other assets outlined above, you can also donate by directing a funeral home that the recognition of a lost loved one or friend "IN LIEU OF FLOWERS" donation can be made to the MOHF address below. Please visit our website for more information.

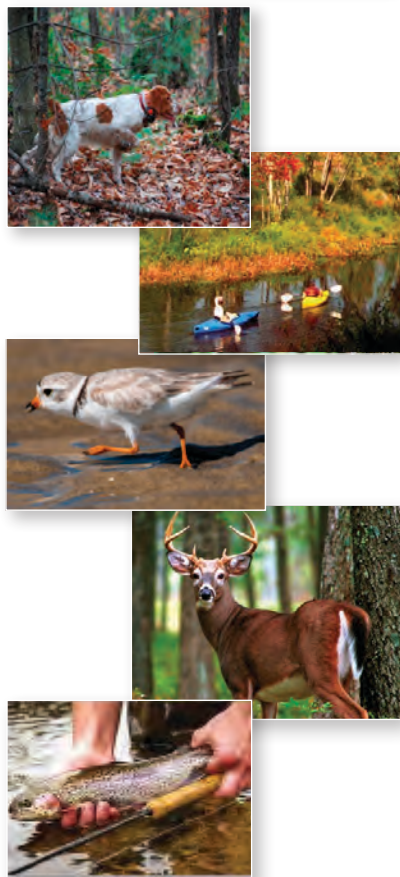
**Please contact us at:**

Phone: (413) 230-4945

Email: [ralph@massoutdoorheritage.org](mailto:ralph@massoutdoorheritage.org)

Website: [www.massoutdoorheritage.org](http://www.massoutdoorheritage.org)

Mail: Massachusetts Outdoor Heritage Foundation  
P. O. Box 47  
Westboro, MA 01581





# FURBEARER TRAPPING SEASONS

## OPEN SEASON (ALL DATES INCLUSIVE)

<b>Beaver<sup>1</sup></b>	Jan. 1 – April 15, 2022 Nov. 1, 2022 – April 15, 2023
<b>Bobcat<sup>1,2</sup>, Coyote<sup>1</sup>, Fox<sup>1</sup>, Weasel</b>	Nov. 1 – Nov. 30, 2022
<b>Fisher<sup>1</sup></b>	Nov. 1 – Nov. 22, 2022
<b>Mink<sup>1</sup>, River Otter<sup>1</sup></b>	Nov. 1 – Dec. 15, 2022
<b>Muskrat, Opossum,</b>	Jan. 1 – Feb. 28, 2022
<b>Raccoon, Skunk</b>	Nov. 1, 2022 – Feb. 28, 2023

1 – Pelt checking/reporting required; see below.

2 – Bobcats may only be trapped or salvaged in Wildlife Management Zones 1–8. See WMZ map on pages 22–23.

## LICENSING

A trapping license is required for all persons age 12 years of age and older.

## TRAP REGISTRATION

All traps used on the land of another must have a valid Trap Registration Number embedded or cut into the trap. The trap must also have attached a metal tag bearing the owner's name, town and registration number. Letters and figures must be legible and no less than 1/8-inch high. The registration number must be renewed every two years. To trap on another's land, a trapper must maintain a current certification of that registration number. To obtain registration numbers, contact MassWildlife at (508) 389-6300 or [mass.wildlife@mass.gov](mailto:mass.wildlife@mass.gov).

## MANDATORY TRAPPER EDUCATION

Trapper Education is mandatory for first-time trappers and Problem Animal Control (PAC) agents in order to apply for a trap registration certificate. Government issued Trapper Education certificates from any U.S. state are accepted to apply. Included in the Massachusetts Trapper Education course is the mandatory training required to use Bailey or Hancock traps. Both a Trapper Education Certificate and a Bailey-Hancock Certificate are issued to students who successfully complete this course.

## TRAPPING IMPLEMENTS

Only cage or box type traps may be used for the taking of fur-bearing mammals. Common rat traps may only be used for the taking of weasels. Bailey and Hancock traps may only be used for the taking of beaver by trappers with a Bailey-Hancock certificate of comple-

tion. The Bailey-Hancock certificate must be in possession when using such traps. To obtain a special permit to use bodygrip traps (e.g., Conibear™ traps) addressing certain types of wildlife damage, contact your local MassWildlife District office.

**PROHIBITED:** Use of steel-jaw foothold traps, padded jaw traps, body-gripping (Conibear) traps, snares, deadfalls, and any traps other than those specified in this Guide are prohibited. Such traps may not be set, tended, used, or possessed in the field.

**STAKING** is not a recognized practice and conveys no special trapping privileges.

**STOLEN TRAPS:** A trapper must report the loss or theft of a trap in writing to the Massachusetts Environmental Police (MEP) within 48 hours of the loss or theft, or remain responsible for its use. See MEP contact information on page 5.

## HARVEST REPORTING (PELT CHECKING)

Coyote and fox must be reported within 48 hours of harvest. Fisher, beaver, bobcat, river otter, and mink must be reported within 4 working days of the end of their respective seasons. Bobcat and river otter can-not be reported online. Take all bobcat and river otter to an official furbearer check station, which are located at Mass-Wildlife facilities only (see Furbearer Check Stations below), within 4 working days of the end of the season. You will be issued a federally-required seal for bobcat and river otter. For detailed information on Online Game Check, visit the Game Check Station page on [mass.gov/dfw/checkstat](http://mass.gov/dfw/checkstat) on; visit the MassFishHunt System online at [mass.gov/massfshhunt](http://mass.gov/massfshhunt) to report your harvest online. Once issued a harvest confirmation number, write it on a tag of your own making and attach it to the pelt/carcass. Confirmation numbers must remain attached to all pelts/carcasses until the pelt/carcass is prepared for sale, taxidermy or other use.

## SALE OF PELTS

**EXPORTING RAW FURS:** When shipping raw fur pelts by any carrier, the contents of the package and the shipper's hunting or trapping license number must be listed on the outside of the package. The destruction or removal of any identifying tag or label that is attached to a container in which skins are shipped is unlawful.

## FURBEARER CHECK STATIONS

Check stations are open Monday–Friday (excluding holidays). Call check stations prior to bringing pelts in for sealing. Most deer check stations also check coyotes; visit our website at [mass.gov/dfw/checkstation](http://mass.gov/dfw/checkstation) or call MassWildlife Field Headquarters for further information.

- **Western District:**  
Dalton (413) 684-1646
- **Connecticut Valley District:**  
Belchertown (413) 323-7632
- **Central District:**  
West Boylston (508) 835-3607
- **Northeast District:**  
Ayer (978) 772-2145
- **Southeast District:**  
Buzzards Bay (508) 759-3406
- **Sunderland Hatchery:**  
Sunderland (413) 665-4680
- **Bitzer Fish Hatchery:**  
Montague (413) 367-2477
- **Field Headquarters:**  
Westborough (508) 389-6300



# TRAPPING PROHIBITIONS

## IT IS ILLEGAL TO:

- Trap fur-bearing mammals with any trap other than a cage or box type trap, or a common rat trap for weasels.
- Intentionally or knowingly drown wildlife.
- Trap before 6:00am on opening day of any trapping season.
- Possess or have under control a trap on land of another in any place where fur-bearing mammals might be found between April 16 of any year and 6:00am on the following November 1.
- Possess the green pelt of any fur-bearing mammal or any part of such pelt except during the open season for such mammal and for ten days thereafter.
- Possess or have under control an unregistered trap on land of another.
- Possess or have under control the registered trap of another, unless he or she has entered into a trapping partnership through the Boston Office.
- Trap on posted land of another without the written permission of the owner or tenant of such land.
- Trap in a public way, cart road, path or other way commonly used as a passage-way for people or domestic animals.
- Tear open, disturb, or destroy a muskrat lodge, beaver lodge or beaver dam, except as provided in 321 CMR 2.08.
- Use poison or trap with a trap designed to take more than one mammal at a time.
- Trap on land with a Bailey or Hancock beaver trap or other trap of similar design, except when set upon a beaver dam or beaver lodge, snag, stump, rock, or other above-water protrusion entirely or substantially surrounded by water, or, when the pan of such trap is not completely submerged.
- Trap with a Bailey or Hancock beaver trap or other trap of similar design without having completed a training session and having been issued a certificate of completion, or to fail to carry such certificate on one's person when using such traps.
- Fail to visit all traps staked out, set, used, tended, placed, or maintained, and remove all animals trapped at least once in each calendar day between the hours of 4:00am and 10:00pm.
- Destroy, mutilate, spring, or remove the trap of another.
- Take any fur-bearing mammal from the trap of another unless he has on his person a specific written authorization to do so, signed by the owner of such trap. The owner of traps may give such authorization to any person licensed to trap for a period not to exceed one week from the day the traps were last tended, provided that notice of the giving of such authorization including the name and trapping license number of the person so authorized shall be given to the regional Environmental Police Officer and to the Director within 24 hours of the giving of such authorization.
- Set, use, place, locate, tend, or maintain a trap not bearing on a metal tag the name, town of residence, and trap registration number of the person or persons using the same in a manner as to be legible at all times. Said registration number shall be permanently embedded in or marked on the traps with letters and figures not less than 1/8 inches high in such a manner as to be legible at all times.
- Possess any road-killed furbearers during the closed season, or possess road-killed furbearers during the open season without a valid hunting or trapping license as appropriate to that species and season.
- Alter, tamper with, or reapply a furbearer tag or seal, or possess any altered or resealed tag, or possess any pelt bearing an altered or resealed tag or seal.

## INCIDENTAL CATCH — EMERGENCY PERMIT

Catch of any species other than beaver or muskrat while trapping with a 10 day emergency permit must be turned over to MassWildlife.

## PROBLEM ANIMAL CONTROL AGENTS

Problem Animal Control (PAC) agents are private individuals licensed by the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife to assist the public in situations involving sick animals or animals causing property damage. If you are experiencing wildlife damage and wish to contract with a PAC agent, a listing can be found on [mass.gov/masswildlife](http://mass.gov/masswildlife). Individuals interested in becoming a PAC agent can obtain information on the permitting process from this same website, or call MassWildlife Field Headquarters at (508) 389-6300.



Photo by Bill Byrne/MassWildlife

## RABIES

Rabies in wild mammals has been confirmed in all counties in Massachusetts except Dukes and Nantucket. Wear rubber gloves when skinning furbearers. If you believe you have been exposed to a rabid animal, scrub the area thoroughly with soap and water and seek medical advice immediately. If possible, isolate and preserve the dead animal by refrigeration as soon as possible. Contact your local Board of Health.

## DEVELOP OUTDOOR SKILLS WITH MASSWILDLIFE

### LEARN TO HUNT PROGRAMS

Hunters with little or no experience can learn skills and techniques used to hunt different game animals. Courses are geared toward recent Basic Hunter Education graduates and include classroom learning and outdoor skills exercises. Taught by volunteers, the courses utilize the experience and knowledge of seasoned sportsmen and -women. Courses range from one-day condensed classes to three-day, in-depth courses. To learn more, to be notified about upcoming courses, or to volunteer as an instructor, visit [mass.gov/dfw/learn-to-hunt](http://mass.gov/dfw/learn-to-hunt).

### EXPLORE ARCHERY AND BOWHUNTING

These programs are designed to help instructors, program leaders, and educators teach outdoor skills to people of all ages.

**EXPLORE ARCHERY** is an international style target shooting program that was created to promote the lifelong interest and participation in the sport of archery to participants of all ages.

**EXPLORE BOWHUNTING** is an educational program designed to teach students ages 11 and up the basic skills of bowhunting through 23 innovative lesson plans. Through these hands-on experiences students gain confidence interacting with the natural environment and strengthen their appreciation for wildlife and the woods.

For more information about these programs, call (508) 389-6305.

### ANGLER EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Angler Education Program introduces people of all ages to fishing, educates them about the state's aquatic wildlife and habitats through fishing, and promotes Massachusetts' abundant waterways and freshwater fishing opportunities. Program elements include one-day family fishing festivals and short fishing clinics offered by volunteers and MassWildlife staff across the state. A Fishing Gear Loaner Program is available for groups and organizations that already have an event organized, but need equipment. Occasional specialty classes such as fly tying



Photo by Troy Gipps/MassWildlife

or ice fishing are also scheduled. For more information call 508-389-6309.

### BECOMING AN OUTDOORS-WOMAN

Designed primarily for adult women, BOW is an opportunity to learn new skills. Past workshops have included basic fishing, beginning shotgun, kayaking, map and compass, wildlife tracking, archery, nature photography, fly tying, game cooking, and edible plants. Workshop notices are posted at [mass.gov/dfw/bow](http://mass.gov/dfw/bow). For more information, call (508) 389-6305.

### HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM

Provides courses in the safe handling of firearms, and other outdoor activities related to hunting and firearm use. Designed for novices, courses in Basic Hunter Education, Bowhunter Education, Trapper Education, and others are offered statewide throughout the year. Certificates in certain courses satisfy hunting license requirements for Massachusetts as

well as other states and Canadian provinces. For more information, call (508) 389-7820.

### MASSACHUSETTS JUNIOR CONSERVATION CAMP

This two-week overnight program, held in August for boys and girls ages 13–17, provides a solid grounding in outdoor skills. Participants learn about fisheries, wildlife, forestry, and camping, and become proficient in the use of shotgun, rifle, archery equipment, map and compass, and other outdoor activities. Basic Hunter Education and Boat Safety programs are included. For more information, call (508) 389-6300, or go to [juniorconservationcamp.org](http://juniorconservationcamp.org).

### YOUTH HUNT DAYS AND PROGRAMS

Special hunt days and programs are designed for young hunters. Details can be found on pages 24–25.

## EDUCATION PROGRAMS

### ARCHERY IN THE SCHOOLS

The National Archery in the Schools Program in Massachusetts is an archery program developed for educators to provide students in grades 4–12 with an exposure to a fun, alternative sport that can be enjoyed by people of all ages and abilities. Taught primarily by physical education teachers, the program also includes social studies, mathematics, and physics. This program is a partnership between MassWildlife, National Archery in the Schools, the Archery Trade Association, and local sporting groups. Training is provided by MassWildlife to educators. Schools may borrow archery kits for two weeks free of charge. Funding may be available for schools to buy a kit of their own. For more information, call (508) 389-6305.

### PROJECT WILD IN MASSACHUSETTS

An international program of wildlife education workshops designed for educators of a wide range of ages, from pre-school to high school. Hours spent may be used toward professional development or other continuing education credit. Co-sponsored by the Massachusetts Sportsmen's Council. For information on attending or hosting a workshop, email [pam.landry@mass.gov](mailto:pam.landry@mass.gov).

- **GROWING UP WILD:** Exploring Nature With Young Children (Ages 3–7 years). This workshop is designed for early childhood educators with activities that build on children's sense of wonder about nature and invites them to explore wildlife and the world

around them. Educators experience a wide range of activities that provide a foundation for developing a child's positive impression about nature.

- **PROJECT WILD AND AQUATIC WILD** workshops are interdisciplinary, hands-on learning opportunities for educators of K–12 level students focusing on terrestrial and aquatic wildlife and ecosystems. The curriculums encourage problem-solving and decision-making skills concerning the environment. Scout leaders, youth group leaders, homeschoolers, and both formal and non-formal educators find the materials and workshops valuable.

### MASSACHUSETTS ENVIROTHON

The Envirothon is Massachusetts' leading natural resource education program for high school students, emphasizing hands-on, team-oriented problem solving and community involvement that prepares young people for environmental careers and active citizenship. For over three decades, the Massachusetts Envirothon has engaged young people in hands-on exploration of soil, water, wildlife, and forest resources, and investigation of the important environmental issues affecting themselves, their families, and their communities. For more information, email [massenvirothon@gmail.com](mailto:massenvirothon@gmail.com) or go to <https://massenvirothon.org>.

### NORTH AMERICAN CONSERVATION EDUCATION STRATEGY RESOURCES

An array of tools and resources developed by state fish and wildlife agencies support conservation educators who offer fish and wildlife-based programs that guide students in grades K–12 on their way to becoming involved, responsible, conservation minded citizens. The strategy resources deliver unified, research-based Core Concepts and messages about fish and wildlife conservation, translated into K–12 academic standards to shape students' environmental literacy, stewardship, and outdoor skills. Resources in the tool kit include: landscape investigation, schoolyard biodiversity, field investigation, fostering outdoor observation skills, applying systems thinking, and much more. Download these free resources at [fishwildlife.org/afwa-informs/ce-strategy](http://fishwildlife.org/afwa-informs/ce-strategy).



Photo courtesy Massachusetts Envirothon

### JUNIOR DUCK STAMP

The Junior Duck Stamp (JDS) Conservation and Design Program; *Connecting Youth with Nature Through Science and Art* is a dynamic arts and science curriculum for educators designed to teach wetland habitat and waterfowl conservation to students in K–12. Using scientific and wildlife observation principles, the program helps students to visually communicate what they have learned by creating an entry to the state's JDS contest. Guidelines and curriculum for students, educators, homeschool, and non-formal groups designed to spark youth interest in habitat conservation through science, art, math, and technology can be downloaded at [www.fws.gov/juniorduck](http://www.fws.gov/juniorduck). Co-sponsored by the USFWS with support from the Massachusetts Sportsmen's Council. For more information, go to [mass.gov/dfw/jds](http://mass.gov/dfw/jds) or email [pam.landry@mass.gov](mailto:pam.landry@mass.gov).



The acrylic painting of American Black Ducks by Caleb Clemons won Best of Show and represented Massachusetts in the 2021 National Junior Duck Stamp Competition.

# MASSWILDLIFE PUBLICATION ORDER FORM

## PRINTED MATERIALS

	PRICE	QUANTITY
BioMap 2 Report*	\$2.50	_____
Critters of Massachusetts	\$5.00	_____
Field Guide to Animals of Vernal Pools	\$12.00	_____
Field Guide to Amphibians and Reptiles of Massachusetts	\$10.00	_____
Field Guide to MA Reptiles	\$3.00	_____
Guide to Invasive Plants in MA	\$5.00	_____
Massachusetts Homeowner's Guide to Bats*	\$2.50	_____
Massachusetts Natural Heritage Atlas 15th Edition, Individual Town Map	\$25.00	_____
Town Name: _____		
Massachusetts Wildlife Magazine (4 issues)**	\$6.00	_____
Massachusetts Wildlife Magazine (8 issues)**	\$10.00	_____
Animal Tracks Pocket Guide*	\$2.50	_____

## CDS, DVDS

An Introduction to the Threatened Turtles of Massachusetts: Why They Need our Help (DVD)	\$5.00	_____
Vascular Plants of Massachusetts: A County Checklist, First Revision (CD)	\$5.00	_____

## POSTERS

Freshwater Fishes of Massachusetts poster/brochure (folded or unfolded)	\$2.50	_____
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AB2022

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE:** Some items are available at a discount if purchased in bulk or if you are an educator.

\* Free of charge if picked up at a MassWildlife office. Please call (508) 389-6300 to ensure availability and for special bulk/educator pricing. Allow 7-10 days for delivery.

\*\* Also available for purchase using a credit card through the MassFishHunt licensing system, [mass.gov/massfishhunt](http://mass.gov/massfishhunt).

## SHIPPING ADDRESS

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

We can only accept checks at this time. Please make checks payable to: Comm. of MA – MassWildlife.

Mail this order form and payment to:

### Publications

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife  
1 Rabbit Hill Road  
Westborough, MA 01581



# 2022 SUNRISE-SUNSET TABLE

DAY	JANUARY		FEBRUARY		MARCH		APRIL		MAY		JUNE		JULY		AUGUST		SEPTEMBER		OCTOBER		NOVEMBER		DECEMBER	
	RISE	SET	RISE	SET	RISE	SET	RISE	SET	RISE	SET	RISE	SET	RISE	SET	RISE	SET	RISE	SET	RISE	SET	RISE	SET	RISE	SET
	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM
1	7:16	4:26	7:01	5:02	6:22	5:37	6:30	7:13	5:43	7:47	5:13	8:17	5:14	8:28	5:40	8:06	6:12	7:21	6:44	6:29	7:20	5:41	6:56	4:16
2	7:16	4:27	6:59	5:03	6:21	5:38	6:28	7:14	5:41	7:48	5:13	8:18	5:15	8:27	5:41	8:05	6:14	7:19	6:45	6:27	7:22	5:39	6:58	4:16
3	7:16	4:27	6:58	5:04	6:19	5:40	6:26	7:15	5:40	7:49	5:12	8:19	5:16	8:27	5:42	8:04	6:15	7:18	6:46	6:25	7:23	5:38	6:59	4:15
4	7:16	4:28	6:57	5:05	6:18	5:41	6:25	7:16	5:39	7:50	5:12	8:19	5:16	8:27	5:43	8:03	6:16	7:16	6:48	6:23	7:24	5:37	7:00	4:15
5	7:16	4:29	6:56	5:07	6:16	5:42	6:23	7:18	5:37	7:51	5:12	8:20	5:17	8:27	5:44	8:02	6:17	7:14	6:49	6:22	7:25	5:36	7:01	4:15
6	7:16	4:30	6:55	5:08	6:14	5:43	6:21	7:19	5:36	7:52	5:11	8:21	5:17	8:26	5:45	8:00	6:18	7:13	6:50	6:20	7:27	5:34	7:02	4:15
7	7:16	4:31	6:54	5:09	6:13	5:44	6:19	7:20	5:35	7:53	5:11	8:21	5:18	8:26	5:46	7:59	6:19	7:11	6:51	6:18	7:28	5:31	7:02	4:15
8	7:16	4:32	6:53	5:11	6:11	5:46	6:18	7:21	5:34	7:54	5:11	8:22	5:19	8:26	5:47	7:58	6:20	7:09	6:52	6:17	7:29	5:29	7:03	4:15
9	7:16	4:33	6:51	5:12	6:09	5:47	6:16	7:22	5:32	7:55	5:11	8:23	5:19	8:25	5:48	7:56	6:21	7:07	6:53	6:15	7:30	5:27	7:04	4:15
10	7:15	4:34	6:50	5:13	6:08	5:48	6:14	7:23	5:31	7:57	5:10	8:23	5:20	8:25	5:49	7:55	6:22	7:06	6:54	6:13	7:31	5:25	7:05	4:15
11	7:15	4:36	6:49	5:15	6:06	5:49	6:13	7:24	5:30	7:58	5:10	8:24	5:21	8:24	5:50	7:54	6:23	7:04	6:55	6:12	7:32	5:24	7:06	4:15
12	7:15	4:37	6:48	5:16	6:04	5:50	6:11	7:25	5:29	7:59	5:10	8:24	5:22	8:24	5:51	7:52	6:24	7:02	6:57	6:10	7:33	5:23	7:07	4:15
13	7:14	4:38	6:46	5:17	7:02	6:51	6:10	7:27	5:28	8:00	5:10	8:25	5:22	8:23	5:52	7:51	6:25	7:00	6:58	6:08	7:34	5:21	7:08	4:15
14	7:14	4:39	6:45	5:18	7:01	6:53	6:08	7:28	5:27	8:01	5:10	8:25	5:23	8:23	5:53	7:49	6:26	6:59	6:59	6:07	7:35	5:19	7:08	4:15
15	7:13	4:40	6:43	5:20	6:59	6:54	6:06	7:29	5:26	8:02	5:10	8:26	5:24	8:22	5:55	7:48	6:27	6:57	7:00	6:05	7:36	5:17	7:09	4:16
16	7:13	4:41	6:42	5:21	6:57	6:55	6:05	7:30	5:25	8:03	5:10	8:26	5:25	8:21	5:56	7:47	6:28	6:55	7:01	6:04	7:37	5:15	7:10	4:16
17	7:12	4:43	6:41	5:22	6:56	6:56	6:03	7:31	5:24	8:04	5:10	8:26	5:26	8:21	5:57	7:45	6:29	6:53	7:02	6:02	7:38	5:13	7:10	4:16
18	7:12	4:44	6:39	5:24	6:54	6:57	6:02	7:32	5:23	8:05	5:10	8:27	5:27	8:20	5:58	7:44	6:30	6:51	7:03	6:00	7:39	5:11	7:11	4:17
19	7:11	4:45	6:38	5:25	6:52	6:58	6:00	7:33	5:22	8:06	5:10	8:27	5:27	8:19	5:59	7:42	6:31	6:50	7:05	5:59	7:40	5:09	7:12	4:17
20	7:11	4:46	6:36	5:26	6:50	6:59	5:58	7:34	5:21	8:07	5:11	8:27	5:28	8:18	6:00	7:40	6:32	6:48	7:06	5:57	7:41	5:08	7:12	4:17
21	7:10	4:47	6:35	5:27	6:49	7:01	5:57	7:35	5:20	8:08	5:11	8:27	5:29	8:17	6:01	7:39	6:34	6:46	7:07	5:56	7:42	5:07	7:13	4:18
22	7:09	4:49	6:33	5:29	6:47	7:02	5:55	7:37	5:20	8:09	5:11	8:27	5:30	8:17	6:02	7:37	6:35	6:44	7:08	5:54	7:43	5:06	7:13	4:18
23	7:09	4:50	6:32	5:30	6:45	7:03	5:54	7:38	5:19	8:10	5:11	8:28	5:31	8:16	6:03	7:36	6:36	6:43	7:09	5:53	7:44	5:05	7:14	4:19
24	7:08	4:51	6:30	5:31	6:43	7:04	5:52	7:39	5:18	8:11	5:12	8:28	5:32	8:15	6:04	7:34	6:37	6:41	7:11	5:51	7:45	5:04	7:14	4:20
25	7:07	4:52	6:29	5:32	6:42	7:05	5:51	7:40	5:17	8:11	5:12	8:28	5:33	8:14	6:05	7:33	6:38	6:39	7:12	5:50	7:46	5:03	7:15	4:20
26	7:06	4:54	6:27	5:33	6:40	7:06	5:50	7:41	5:17	8:12	5:12	8:28	5:34	8:13	6:06	7:31	6:39	6:37	7:13	5:49	7:47	5:02	7:15	4:21
27	7:05	4:55	6:26	5:35	6:38	7:07	5:48	7:42	5:16	8:13	5:13	8:28	5:35	8:12	6:07	7:29	6:40	6:36	7:14	5:47	7:48	5:01	7:15	4:22
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29	7:04	4:58			6:35	7:10	5:45	7:44	5:15	8:15	5:13	8:28	5:37	8:10	6:09	7:26	6:42	6:32	7:17	5:44	7:50	5:00	7:16	4:23
30	7:03	4:59			6:33	7:11	5:44	7:46	5:14	8:16	5:14	8:28	5:38	8:09	6:10	7:24	6:43	6:30	7:18	5:43	7:51	5:00	7:16	4:24
31	7:02	5:00			6:31	7:12			5:14	8:17			5:39	8:08	6:11	7:23			7:19	5:42			7:16	4:25

Table shows Eastern Standard Time and daylight savings time — seen in **bold**.

Data shown above is for Worcester, Massachusetts.

BOSTON subtract 3 minutes; SPRINGFIELD add 3 minutes; PITTSFIELD add 7 minutes.

## HUNTING HOURS

Generally, hunting hours are from 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset on each day of open season. There are exceptions:

- Rabbit, hare, fox, and coyote hunting hours close at midnight.
- During the shotgun deer/coyote season when hunting closes 1/2 hour after sunset. (see species hunting pages)
- Spring turkey hunting (see page 32).
- Raccoon and opossum hunting (see page 45)
- Youth Turkey Hunt Day: 1/2 hour before sunrise to 5:00 pm (see page 24).
- Wildlife Management Areas (page 21): Hours are from sunrise to sunset on WMAs where pheasant or quail are stocked during the pheasant or quail season. Exception: Hunting raccoons and opossums in these WMAs is legal between 9:00pm and 3:00am.
- Migratory game bird hunting: 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset. Exception: Early Canada Goose season hours are 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset (see pages 40–41).

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# SUMMARY OF HUNTING SEASON DATES

**No hunting on Sunday.** For further information regarding bag limits and seasons please visit the pages noted below.

## OPEN SEASON (ALL DATES INCLUSIVE)

DEER		SEE PAGE 26 FOR BAG LIMITS
Deer (Big Game)	Youth Deer Hunt Day	Oct. 1
	Archery	Zones 10–14: Oct. 3 – Nov. 26
	Paralegic	Zones 1–9: Oct. 17 – Nov. 26
	Shotgun	Nov. 3 – Nov. 5
	Primitive Firearms	Nov. 28 – Dec. 10
BLACK BEAR		SEE PAGE 30 FOR BAG LIMITS
Black Bear (Big Game)		Sept. 6 – Sept. 24
	Zones 1–14	Nov. 7 – Nov. 26
		Nov. 28 – Dec. 10
UPLAND GAME BIRDS*		SEE PAGE 32–36 FOR BAG LIMITS
Crow		Jan. 1 – Apr. 9
	Zones 1–14	July 1 – Apr. 10, 2023 (M, F, Sat only)
Pheasant	Youth Hunt	Sept. 3, 10, 17, 24, Oct. 1, 8
	Zones 1–14	Oct. 15 – Nov. 26
Quail	Zones 11–14	Oct. 15 – Nov. 26
Ruffed Grouse	Zones 1–14	Oct. 15 – Nov. 26
Wild Turkey (Big Game)	Youth Hunt: Zones 1–13	April 23 (special restrictions apply**)
	Spring: Zones 1–13	April 25 – May 21
	Fall: Zones 10–13***	Oct. 3 – Nov. 26
	Fall: Zones 1–9***	Oct. 17 – Nov. 26

\* Crow hunting is closed during shotgun deer season. Migratory game birds (includes waterfowl, woodcock, snipe, rails): Seasons and bag limits set annually. For Migratory Game Bird Regulations see pages 40–41 and visit [mass.gov/migratory-game-bird](http://mass.gov/migratory-game-bird).

\*\* Must have completed the Youth Turkey Hunt program (page 24).

\*\*\* Shotgun, muzzleloading shotgun, and archery from Oct. 17 – 29, 2022.

RABBIT, HARE & SQUIRREL*		SEE PAGE 38–39 FOR BAG LIMITS
Cottontail	Zones 1–12	Jan. 1 – Feb. 28; Oct. 15 – Feb. 28, 2023
Rabbit	Zones 13 and 14	Jan. 1 – Feb. 28; Nov. 15 – Feb. 28, 2023
Snowshoe Hare	Zones 1–4	Jan. 1 – Feb. 28; Oct. 15 – Feb. 28, 2023
	Zones 5–12	Jan. 1 – Feb. 5; Oct. 15 – Feb. 4, 2023
Gray Squirrel	Zones 13 and 14	Jan. 1 – Feb. 5; Nov. 15 – Feb. 4, 2023
	Zones 1–9	Sept. 12 – Jan. 2, 2023
	Zones 10–14	Oct. 15 – Jan. 2, 2023

\* Rabbit, hare, and squirrel hunting are closed during shotgun deer season.

FURBEARERS*		SEE PAGE 42–44 FOR BAG LIMITS
Bobcat	Zones 1–8	Jan. 1 – Mar. 8
		Dec. 20 – Mar. 8, 2023
Coyote	Zones 1–14	Jan. 1 – Mar. 8
		Oct. 15 – Mar. 8, 2023
Fox (red or gray)	Zones 1–14	Jan. 1 – Feb. 28
		Nov. 1 – Feb. 28, 2023
Opossum	Zones 1–14	Jan. 1 – Jan. 31
		Oct. 1 – Jan. 31, 2023
Raccoon	Zones 1–14	Jan. 1 – Jan. 31
		Oct. 1 – Jan. 31, 2023

\* All furbearer hunting seasons are closed during shotgun deer season, except for coyotes (Special restrictions apply. See page 42).

The following species may be taken year-round (except during shotgun deer season) by licensed hunters with no daily or seasonal bag limit: English sparrow, flying squirrel, red squirrel, chipmunk, porcupine, skunk, starling, weasel, woodchuck.

Falconers may hunt pheasant, bobwhite quail, ruffed grouse, cottontail rabbit, snowshoe hare, and gray squirrel from the respective opening day through March 15th.



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